MISSISSIPPI FIELD REPORT

Richard Jewett
January 19, 1965
Report covers Sept. 1964 - Jan. 1965

The combination of Summer Project, Civil Rights Act, outside focus, and federal presence has changed Mississippi. The summer project program has faded, but the present activity is in the best direction--extensive activity on the part of local people themselves. Workers can travel much more freely in all areas and can talk with local people more freely. Local people can talk more freely and are willing to do more.

Local Movement

Freedom Democratic Party Far and away the most significant outgrowth of the Summer Project is the Freedom Democratic Party and related political activities. Before the summer the movement did nothing more than just try to convince people to go to the courthouse and register to vote. Workshops were run on filling out the voting application form.

This fall people have been much more deeply in the whole political structure. More and more meetings are discussing the ways in which the federal and local government enter into local problems and the ways in which the federal and local governments can be made to respond to pressure from Mississippi Negroes.

The Freedom election this fall was not successful in terms of education and was only partly successful in terms of getting more people interested in political activity. The challenge to the seating of the Mississippi congressional delegation caught local imagination in a big way, however. In less than a month local Mississippians all over the state raised enough money to send 500 of themselves to Washington to demonstrate at the opening of Congress and to talk with government agencies about their problems back in Mississippi. Staff helped to arrange the trip mechanically, but the main thrust was entirely in local hands.

The connection with Washington may lead to a further emphasis on federal programs and on federal involvement in Mississippi as the local people continue their pressure. It will take time to see if the development is strongly in this direction or if people turn strongly to local government.

Open Discussion Another more subtle but in the long run probably most significant outgrowth of the summer is the new-found willingness of local Mississippi Negroes to speak up for themselves, to try to attack their own problems in areas that were formerly forbidden to them. Several workshops for FDP (at Biloxi and at Batesville) have had minimal staff participation and have been run almost entirely by local people. These workshops have talked in detail about how political involvement and action can work changes in Mississippi. The FDP state convention December 20 was not addressed once by a northern staff person. This willingness to talk comes from all over the state. Out of even hard counties like Neshoba, the Delta, and the Southwest. People are openly talking with other people about common problems and how to solve them.

The feeling of the staff now is to encourage this sort of talking and searching. Staff is spending or trying to spend much of its time listening to local people and trying to bring together local feeling instead of trying to impose a program from outside. It appears as though money will be available for a series of workshops--three or four day meetings to discuss whatever local people want to discuss. Urban organization, FDP, plantation organization-workshops tied to specific topics in this way. Again local people will organize and run the workshops themselves.

In line with this new feeling the 4th Congressional District (largely CORE) held a three day meeting in the Harmony Community Center in Leake County January 15 through January 17. Perhaps 20 staff and 10 to 20 local Mississippians from all parts of the district gathered to discuss both staff and local problems. An attempt was made to discuss at least the beginnings of solutions to some problems. In the past staff meetings and meetings of local people have always been separate.

It is interesting to note that organizations working with COFO have adopted the same policy and are not bringing in programs and imposing them. The National Council of Churches for instance is moving ahead very slowly on its Delta Ministry program. The NCC only moves on programs as local people want them and as local people can take an active part in them.

Staff Direction

The COFO rhetoric of the summer is somewhat stale by now. The community center idea has certainly been pushed into the background. There is a perhaps unconscious realization that COFO lacks the talent, the money, the continuity, and perhaps even the inclination to carry on really significant community center operations in most areas. Community center buildings and libraries are being turned over to local people, and no large programs in this direction are being generated. Some isolated programs are being carried on with success.

The freedom school idea is still with us, but there are few active freedom schools which involve the same teacher and the same kids in regular contact; the freedom schools that do exist tend to be rather helter-skelter and to change with the time of year and with the feeling of whoever is around. In the CORE area there is no significant freedom school activity.

This leaves the political program as the apparent central focus of the staff work. As mentioned above, however, the staff is called upon to do more now, however. It must actively listen to local people and must encourage local people to talk. This process demands a different kind of staff person, and there are no clear guidelines to follow. Many people find it frustrating not to have a program to work on, and the seeming lack of clear program is difficult for staff to understand and to work with. It is hard to take the time to listen with the expectation that some unknown program will actually emerge. But this is generally a time of reassessment in the state, and it will take a while to develop a new direction.

As the fall and winter have developed the CORE-SNCC differences in the state have resumed their pre-summer size, i.e. virtually non-existent. The state-wide sense is very strong, and there is little organizational difficulty.

The COFO money-drawing ability of the summer has largely disappeared, and funds come in now very slowly. SNCC and CORE are both in financial difficulty and cannot assume a full burden. Projects during the summer developed outside contacts, and these contacts are being used to help support the projects. The records of these outside contacts are not centralized, however, and the fund-raising within COFO needs clarification.

The independent COFO legal office was developing slowly but surely. The staff counsel, Henry Aronson, has just resigned, however, and this returns us to former times and opens up the legal aid question once again.

Brief Sketch of Projects

Madison County (Canton)--took a while to settle down after the summer and the shift of people out of the area. Faulty staff understanding combined with long-existing local movement problems turned the Freedom election into a very bad experience. This was reversed by a good county-wide ASC election push, but a very serious staff polarization developed which almost destroyed the gains of the election. The FDP trip to Washington was only moderately responded to; the local people apparently do not see their FDP representative as close to them. The staff is still beset with internal difficulties--the tendency has been strong to turn in on themselves rather than to involve themselves in the community and to absorb community problems; a start of a change is evident, but it will take time to see results.

Leake County
Oklahoma--worked only very sketchily because Glenn has been in Madison county or away much of the time. Good local people appear to be ready to respond and to do their own work, but only the surface has been scratched.

Harmony--very bad shape. Staff, lacking transportation and direction and communication with other areas, has lacked the ability to work out their own problems. Strong local people appear to suppress some community voices, but staff appears to have been unable to help community heal its rift. Will need hard working with to develop what is probably an excellent possibility.

Rankin County--fastest growing project in the district. Local people willing to do all their own work, raise their own funds, and handle all jobs with a minimum of fuss and outside help. Shows promise of being a model project if it continues in this way. A good group went to Washington, and that ought to encourage them even further.

Lauderdale County (Meridian)--only the barest beginnings of a real project. Many staff people, but no real involvement in the community and no sense of where they are headed. Somewhat stifled by old line Negro leadership, and staff cannot yet overcome it. Too easy to raise funds, too easy to move around. Much of it a mess.

Neshoba County--nice start during the summer, but project has not yet developed staying power. Local leadership is active state-wide, but second level leadership is only slowly emerging. Strong spirit.

Clarke County--good new project. Good local leadership and a relatively sympathetic white power structure ought to allow the development of an excellent project. Community people doing their own work. Should develop like Rankin.

Recommendations

The role of staff in the state is changing very rapidly. There is little talk of danger now, very little fear of either the police or local whites. With the freedom of local people to involve themselves staff's job becomes twofold: 1) to get people together to let them talk, and 2) to bring information as people desire it. This is very different from even a few short months ago, and there is going to be a rocky period as this transition is made.

To encourage the positive side of the change we should thin out and tighten up the staff. Change staff to include more local Mississippians. Close some of the existing offices or else let local people take over payment. Stress staff mobility in sense of putting only a very few people in each area. Get people from different areas together; let this interchange provide safety and direction. Try as quickly as possible to open up the entire 4th District. Get people to workshops, to state and county meetings. Use only local leadership on all levels, staff playing no leadership roles. Open no new offices unless local people pay for them and help to staff them. Cut down expenses to include only salaries and transportation.

638 Lutz Street
Canton, Mississippi
January 7, 1965

I, George Raymond, make the following statement freely and voluntarily to F. Phillip Snowden and John F. Eakins who have identified themselves to me as Special Agents, Office of the Inspector General, United States Department of Agriculture, knowing that this statement or complaint may be used in evidence.

I am Project Director of the Canton, Mississippi, office of the Council of Federated Organizations (COFO). I was active in the mobile units on December 3, 1964, during the election of ASC Community Committeemen in Madison County, Mississippi. In the work with the mobile unit it was my principal duty to check at the various polling places to see how the COFO workers were getting along in their work as poll watchers.

My organization wants to register a complaint against the polling places selected by the ASC County Committee in Madison County, Mississippi, for the community elections held on December 3, 1964. My organization did not know of the location of any of the polling places until about the middle of November, 1964, and we did not know that the Reservoir Superette had been selected for the polling place in Community F until about December 1, 1964. The selection of Hawkins Store, Community A, was the most objectionable location so far as the Negro voters were concerned and the Simpson Store in Community H and the Reservoir Superette in Community F were all stores which were "hangouts" for white farmers and where Negro farmers were reluctant to enter on any day but more especially on the day of the community elections.

On election day one or more poll watchers (COFO workers) were sent to the polling places of each community in Madison County. Through friction with property owners, law enforcement officers and acts of other white citizens the poll watchers of Community A and Community E were unable to conduct the duties assigned to them for the complete voting hours and in Community E there was no poll watcher at the close of the day when the ballots were being counted by the polling officials. There was also friction during the afternoon in Community B where the COFO workers were finally ejected from their assigned duties late in the afternoon and were not present during the vote count. There was also friction between COFO workers and law enforcement officers in Community D and between COFO workers and white citizens in Community C and Community H which, although the workers were not fully denied access to the voting place, did cause some apprehension in the negro farmers and it is my opinion that many did not come to the polling place to vote because of these incidents. It is felt that had all Negro voters come to cast their vote that the results would have been different. Incidently, it was the committeemen

in Community B that ejected the poll watchers prior to counting the vote after the close of the polls.

Reports coming in from the poll watchers on election day reflected that the most general violation by poll officials in each community was that they told the voters to "vote for five" instead of instructing the voters to vote for as many as five byt no more and that names could be written in as one of the total of five names. Regardless of the printed instructions on the ballot, I feel that many of the Negro voters who could not properly read and write more than their own name were thus influenced improperly in the method of casting their vote.

from Robert Hodges, Office Manager, ASCS County Office,

It was my understanding prior to the election that two ballot boxes would be provided at each polling place. One box to be used by voters whose names appeared on the eligible list of voters and the other box to be used by those voters who desired to cast a challenged ballot. In Community A no voter not appearing on the list of eligible voters was permitted to cast a challenged ballot although some voters whose names did not appear on the list of eligible voters were allowed to enter their names after discussions with the polling officials and were allowed to vote. In all other communities in Madison County, the voters whose names did not appear on the list of eligible voters were allowed to vote a contested ballot, were allowed to vote an uncontested ballot and their names were placed on the eligible list or were denied the right to vote under any conditions. From the observations of the various poll watchers, which were reported to me, it was noted that more white voters were permitted to enter their name on the list of eligible voters than were Negro voters, and more Negro voters were denied the right to cast a challenged ballot than were the white voters. In Community G it was noted that one Negro voter was brought in by his white boss and the white man cast the ballot for the Negro when neither of them signed the voting register and the Negro was not consulted by the white man as to how the ballot should be marked.

There were various instances of Negro voters who were able to sign their name on the voting register, but unable to read and write otherwise, requesting help in the marking of their ballot and being denied the help of the poll watcher (COFO worker) by the polling official but having either to mark the ballot unassiste or with the assistance of one of the polling officials.

With regard to the change of community boundaries, my workers did not report seeing any maps in the county displayed to show the new community boundary lines prior to election day. There were several reports of farmers, both Negro and white, who appeared at the wrong polling place because of confusion arising from the

proper place to cast their ballot. There were reports received of instances when a voter appeared at a polling place, even with his notice card, and was informed by polling officials that he was in the wrong community and to go to another community.

It is my understanding that it is the responsibility of the Madison A SC County Committee and/or Robert Hodges to have prepared a complete and accurate list of eligible voters prior to the time of the election. On the basis of the number of voters' names written in on the lists of eligible voters and the number of voters who cast a contested ballot which was later counted with the eligible ballots, it appears to me that there was a breakdown in the work and responsibility of preparing the lists of eligible voters to be used at the polls.

During the counting of the votes after the polls were closed, in Community F all of the Negro observers (or prospective observers) were barred by the poll officials from watching the vote count. The only exception to this was the write-in candidate, Lige Taylor, who was allowed to stay. The poll officials said that they were excluding persons (Negroes) because of crowded conditions, but thereafter, white persons were allowed to enter and watch the vote count. Two of the poll officials stood in such a position that the COFO watcher could not observe the vote count. In this Community F and Community G the poll officials denied the request of the COFO worker to compare the count of eligible voters who voted and were listed on the register of eligible voters with the total number of votes tallied.

During the session of the County Committee on December 4, 1964, for the purpose of determining the eleigibility of the contested ballots (challenged ballots) and to count those ballots for those persons determined to be eleigible voters, the COFO workers present as observers reported that Mrs. Sims (County Office Employee) was the one working with the County Committee in checking office records and deed records when such was required. There was no one else permitted to verify the findings of Mrs. Sims or to determine if her findings were accurate. There was also a feeling of the COFO workers that Mrs. Sims appeared to be biased in her attitude regarding the question of eligibility of Negro challenged voters.

I have read the above statement consisting of this and two other typewritten pages and have been given the opportunity to make additions and corrections. I have signed or initialed each page.

This statement is based on reports furnished by COFO workers and my own personal knowledge. I have made available copies of all statements and affidavits in my files at the present time.

George Raymond

Witness:

F. Phillp Snowden, Special Agent

John F. Eakins, Special Agent
Office of the Inspector General, USDA
Room 508-1447 Peachtree Street, N.E.
Atlanta, Georgia- 30309

(Miss) Jo Ann Ormian, COFO Office Manager
838 Lutz Street, Canton, Mississippi

January 25, 1965

TO: Jim McCain

FR: Louis S. Smith, Northeast Regional Director

RE: Field Report for N.A.C.
Period: Sept. 1964 - Jan. 1965

I. Program, objectives and activities.

After spending July in Mississippi, and most of August in Atlantic City with the F.D.P. challenge, I proceeded to begin the job I was originally hired for. I located and set up this office, hired field staff, and an office secretary, and drew up the following outline of procedure.

A. I broke the region into sections and assigned field secretaries to each.

B. Instructed the field staff to make short visits to each chapter so that we could get an overall picture of the chapters in our region. Armed with this information I could isolate the weakest chapters and concentrate on them first.

II. Staff.

Herb Callender-Field Secretary, assigned to New York State and has since been on loan to Trenton CORE to establish techniques for dealing with urban renewal.

Joyce Ware-Originally assigned to New England, but with the dismissal of John McDowell, I have been using her as a "floater". She is now assigned to New York City on some special pilot projects but she has also been used in areas outside of the city.

Eric Mann-Field Secretary, assigned to southern half of region and given the task of cleaning up Trailways which is a hangover project from previous National policy. (See V)

Judy Howell-Task Force, Youth Co-ordinator. . Presently working on the Remedial Reading Program. (See V)

We have an "unknown" task force worker with Brooklyn CORE. I became aware of this only last week. Apparently this position was arranged when rent strikes were the big thing in New York.

My feeling is that this worker should be supported by the chapter and not the National Office.

III. Facilities.

A. Regional Office located at 48 W. 125 St. Phones are EN 9-0100 and EN 9-0101

B. Automobile owned by me which is used in the field. The only financial arrangement is that I have an Esso credit card to be used only for the maintenance of this auto.

C. The only equipment we have that belongs to CORE is a typewriter (non-electric); the desks, files, and an air conditioner are the property of the landlord and their use is included in the rent.

IV. Budget

I have, to this date, not worked up a budget because this office handles no money, and aside from the expense reports turned in by field staff, the auto and its accompanying expenses, we have only the rent, $125.00 a month, and the phone.

All bills have been paid by the national office and the records of payments are on file.

We have no debts or obligations that are unknown to the bookkeeping department.

V. Evaluation.

Before attempting to evaluate the Northeast Regional set-up, I find it necessary to list the following major difficulties that had to be overcome in the five months of our existence.

A. No direction from above.
B. The breakdown of relations between the National Office and the New York chapters.
C. The lack of service given to the chapters outside New York City by the previous field staff.
D. My own lack of familiarity with the region.
E. Shortage of staff.
F. Lack of funds for travel.
G. Personnel problems.
H. Lack of a Regional Action Council.

Taking the sum of these problems plus the fact that many of our chapters have suffered in their attempts to change direction, it has been a miracle that we have accomplished what we have.

I do feel, at this point, that we will be, within the next month, in a position to be a real asset to the regional chapters. Within the next two weeks, I will make a tour of the New England chapters after which I will then be in a better position to assign the field secretaries to the chapters in most need. I expect, by convention time to have a complete and comprehensive report on each chapter with concrete recommendations.

We are now in a position to assist our chapters with programs centered around community organizing. An example is the report on Kingston CORE submitted by Joyce Ware (See her report). I have since been to Kingston, and using techniques learned through the Trenton project (Herb Callender's report), the chapter is moving and becoming a real force in the community.

Let me add, that we would have been much further advanced if it had not been for projects such as Trailways which were thrust upon us by previous National Office commitments.

We have been able to establish a chapter in Pittsburg, Pa. and Carlisle, Pa. Until now, we only had one chapter in the entire state, Philadelphia, and that was located in the far southeast corner which left the rest of the state free of any CORE activity. I plan to establish chapters in Harrisburg and Williamsport this summer.

We now have a group in Wilmington, Delaware seeking to join CORE. Either Joyce Ware or myself will be going there on the second of February.

We have no chapters in the state of Delaware which I find ridiculous as here is a state that still has the whipping post and probably all of the other factors of a society that will legally condone such an act as punishment.

I have also laid the groundwork for the establishment of CORE chapters in southern New Jersey where we have none, except for the chapter I established in Camden. I am working on a comprehensive report for you spelling out the reasons why civil rights activity is badly needed in the areas mentioned above, as some of the conditions are equal to the deep South.

VI. Recommendations and Miscellaneous Remarks.

A. That James Farmer spend more time in personal visits to his chapters.
B. That his secretary be instructed to give the CORE chapters adequate prior notice of Jim's appearances in their locale.
C. That N.A.C. members pay periodic visits to the chapters they represent and send reports to their regional office.

I remain,

Yours for freedom.

Trenton, New Jersey
Herb Callender-Field Secretary N.E. Region
January 21, 1965

From: Nov. 1964 to Present

Program:

A. Objectives:
To change present plans of urban renewal in Trenton so that there is:
1. Adequate relocation facilities in Trenton's John Fitch Way Project #3.
2. That there will be low rent housing built as part of the reuse of the Fitch Way area.
3. That out of this project there can be mobilization of South, East and North Trenton areas; to combat housing, education and employment problems.
4. The recruitment of these people would be for membership in the reorganized CORE chapter.

B. Activities: (See attached fact sheets)

1. Making contact in the John Fitch Way area.
2. Door-to-door informing of residents of their rights under urban renewal.
3. Meetings with city officials in Trenton to obtain information on plans for Fitch Way area.
4. Meetings with community in east, south and north Trenton.
5. Training of interested people for various positions; i.e. public relations, housing chairman, schools chairman, etc.
6. Picket lines (There have been two)
   a. City Hall
   b. Mayor Arthur J. Holland's home
7. Planning direct action project.
   (Scheduled for latter January)

Staff:

1.	Herb Callender	Age 31	N.E. Field Secretary
2.	Marva Amis	21	Volunteer Worker Phila.CORE
3.	Fran Crayton	21	" " Bklyn.CORE

Duties:

Field Secretary

1. Develop program for project
2. Participation in all organizational efforts
3. Arrange and attend all necessary meetings
4. Participate and supervise all direct action sub-projects
5. Document all information received on project
6. Arrange for rallies, fund raising affairs and speaking engagements.
7. Set up community office for Trenton chapter
8. Act as community and public relations man
9. Work with remaining members of chapter
10. Supervise community organization around present urban renewal movement.
11. File reports on projects with National and Regional offices
12. Keep NE regional chapters abreast of progress in Trenton
13. Train local residents for specific functions in a CORE chapter

Volunteer Workers:

1. Door-to-door mobilization of community
2. Assist in most duties of field secretary
3. Clerical and documentational work
4. Assist in workships and training programs

Facilities:

Auto: Owned by: Louis Smith N.E. Sr. Field Secretary
1960 Dodge Seneca
Good condition (after necessary repairs and snow tires)

Financial arrangement: CORE Esso Credit Card

Evaluation: (See attached fact sheets)

We were able to mobilize approx. twenty-five new members from the Negro community for chapter. There have been two picket lines,

City Hall and the Mayor's home, to dramatize the problems around the issue. In addition, there are current plans for direct action demonstrations, the first of which will be latter January and will involve chapters from N.Y., N.J., Pa. Civil disobedience as well as picket lines will be used to further bring to light the many problems around the issue. This will be followed by a reorganization meeting approx. middle of Feb. at which time a temporary formal chapter structure will be formed. Election of officers and program will be developed, at which time, we hope, the chapter will be a viable, independent unit.

The significance of the Trenton project as an example of what can be done with urban renewal problems stands out in the meetings that have been held with chapters in the NE region. To discontinue the activities here would be a tremendous defeat to a serious and effective organizational effort carried on by the NE region of CORE.

I would strongly recommend that National CORE continue to support this project and this chapter until the chapter is ready for independent activity. Trenton being the State Capital can truly set the example for many cities in the Tri-States as well as throughout other areas of the country.

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COPY Made 20 January 1965 (Original, Nov. 19, 1964)

TO: NORTHEAST REGIONAL CHAPTERS

RE: Trenton, N.J. and John Fitchway #3 Urban Renewal Project

FROM: Herb Callender, Northeast Regional Field Sec.

FACT SHEET #1

I. Background

The Negro slum area of Fitch Way has been chosen as the site for middle and upper income housing built with Federal funds under the urban renewal program. 256 families are to be moved out of this area. Of these 256 families, 77% are Negroes with low income. Therefore Trenton CORE has requested that a relocation offfce be set up in this area to aid these families in finding other homes, also that low income housing be built there in addition to middle and upper income setups. In effect, this would"kill two birds with one stone" in that it would give the families of low income a decent place to live and provide adequate schooling. We feel that this was significant in that both the neighborhood and the school would be integrated which after all is the basis for all CORE activity.

On 5 November 1964, accompanied by Trenton CORE, Lou Smith-Regional Director, Herb Callender-Field Secretary, Joyce Sherick-Bronx CORE member, Dave Crittendon-Regional Office Secretary, and Marva Amis-Philadelphia CORE member, attended the City Council meeting where approval of the Fitch Way project was very sensitive to the presence of

CORE, and responded by having Herb Callender thrown out of the meeting and subsequently arrested, charging him with disorderly conduct and disruption of a public meeting. The other CORE people including Mrs. Ruth Lewis, chapter chairman of Trenton CORE, were also arrested on the same charge, because they staged a sit-down demonstration outside the City Council doors protesting the present plans for Urban Renewal and the unjust arrest of Herb Callender. This was the first time any civil disobedience had occurred in Trenton and the "responsible Negro leadership" together with the City officials have responded by denouncing CORE and its actions. Expect no help from the local NAACP as some of their members are even expected to testify against us at our trial.

II. Urban Renewal

All Urban Renewal Projects must meet certain standards and have workable programs. John Fitch Way #3's workable program has 7 points, four of which directly concern us in this project. The four listed below were approved on 11/16/64 by the Federal Government.

1. Money available
2. Feasibility
3. Citizen participation
4 Relocation apparatus

In order to qualify for relocation, you must prove to the Federal government that you have clean, safe housing available. This project cannot do this as the amount of housing of this quality does not exist. Section 221 of the Special Financial Program states that the Federal Government will insure all housing built with Federal funds and buildings must have fire walls for FHA approval.

III. Facts on Trenton

I wish to reiterate that no action has occurred before in Trenton. The NAACP has not engaged in active programs concerning the needs of the poorer Negro populace. The "responsible Negro leadership" we feel is led by persons who have or are obtaining personal goals because of their inactivity on the issues of urban renewal and other relevant social issues. As an example of the status of this "responsible leadership", the husband of one of the responsibles heads the Redevelopment Bureau. Several others are involved in real estate sales and are closely linked to the power structure of the town.

IV. New York and New Jersey Chapter Support

A meeting was held on 11/16/64 at the Regional CORE, 48 W. 125 St. Numerous CORE chapters were present and were given the above details and were urged to support the Trenton chapter. They all promised to do their utmost to support any action planned. Chapters present were asked to send letters to the following political figures in Trenton:

Governor Hughes
Senator Case
Senator Williams
Mr. Weaver-Head of Housing Home Financing Agency, Wash. D.C.
Mr. Frank Thompson, Mercer County Congressman

Sample Letter:

Strongly request that you press for a Delay of the issuance of Federal funds for John Fitch Way Project #3 in Trenton, N. J., pending investigation of compliance with Federal standards.

TO: Mayor Arthur J. Holland, City Hall, Trenton, N. J.
Sample letter:

_____CORE wholeheartedly supports Trenton CORE in their efforts on John Fitch Way Project #3.

It is urgent that you send night letters or telegrams to the above-mentioned persons demonstrating your support for Trenton CORE. Please stand ready to give your support when and where needed for this Urban Renewal Project in Trenton. This project has great significance in that it will be a showcase for the type of effort CORE is going to endorse nationally on a program for integration through well designed urban renewal projects. The habit of rebuilding ghettoes must go and go NOW.

You will be promptly notified when any action has been formulated.

Yours for freedom,

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TO: Lou Smith

FROM: Joyce A. Ware, Field Secretary, Northeast Regional Office

RE: Report for NAC

PERIOD: September - January, 1965

First, I think what is necessary in this report is a description of the N.E. Regional Office. The office had four full time Field Secretaries and one Regional Director.

We the Staff did an analysis geographically of the region, taking into account the total numbers of chapters affiliated and unaffiliated. At that time we had staff persons to adequately cover the North East Region.

The area contained some 67 chapters of affiliated and unaffiliated status. At that time we divided the territory among the staff persons taking three and four states respectively. The intention was to visit each CORE chapter in the region, making a report as to its quality in terms of:

1. Is there a chapter?
2. What kinds of persons are in the chapter?
3. What are their potentials?
4. Can the chapter be rebuilt or can the chapter be strengthened?

I was immediately assigned to the states of Massachusetts, Rhode Island and Connecticut having some eleven chapters total.

I immediately went to the Worcester chapter of CORE in Mass. spending a week and half there with the chapter. The chairman of the chapter is Mrs. Ruby Jarrett, an ex-CORE member from Chicago. The chapter is young and has a great deal of potential. The program which we expounded was very general, in terms of getting a chapter to analyze the local situation around housing, education and employment before going into any selection. Also knowing the advantage of what kind of community you had and which was more viable. In the midst of my visit to the chapter, a regional project was coordinated around the Mississippi situation. The emphasis of the project was the focus to get federal protection for the workers and the people in Mississippi who attempted to register. The techniques used were the focusing on the local offices of the F.B.I. with demands which were consistent in concern. The local chapter of Worcester had a sit-in inside the local office of the F.B.I. (I might add that this chapter was the first chapter or any interest group to actually get inside the offices of the F.B.I.) The demonstration lasted some two hours before it ceased.

I left Worcester Sunday Oct. 18, and went to Springfield, Mass. to visit with the local chapter there. Essentially the same procedure was worked there in the major problem of most of the chapters, which is knowing the value of priority in the context of projects.

At Springfield, however, we did talk about the specifics of a program in which the chapter was participating, revolving around the school situation in Springfield with the NAACP. The chairman of Springfield CORE is Oscar Bright, and the chapter consists of about 15 other people, some of whom are also in the NAACP. Specifically, I was interested in ways to build a strong chapter made up of community people, and moreover having a sound and concrete program. That chapter visit lasted some four days at which time I departed.

Upon returning to New York City, I immediately became involved in the Trailways project which centered around a complaint from some 5 porters who worked at Trailways, and which Core had involved itself in a year ago. The involvement was very personal in that it specifically dealt with 5 porters, but moreover it dealt with the employment practices generally. (See attached sheet on the Trailway project.) Specifically, the job of a field secretary was to coordinate the activities that CORE chapters carried out.

In the midst of the Trailways project, I attempted to set up an Area Conference with the chapters in the New England area to be held the third week in November at which point we had received tremendous support from the chapters involved, because of the prospectus presented by James Farmer at the Nyack conference. We felt and so did the chapters that their own procedures and future should be discussed. The area conference was called off in the hopes of having a Northeastern Regional Conference under the direction of Bob Carvin and Shirley Lacey.

The Trenton project was underway in Trenton, N.J. and the First of December I was called to Trenton to work with Herb Callender to coordinate chapter

support and no research on the whole question of Urban Renewal. (See sheet of the Trenton project)

Before the Trenton Project, I visited the Kingston chapter of CORE and the attached sheet describes the chapter and the program which was worked out and is successfully working now. (See attached report on Kingston CORE)

At this stage of the game, we are presently coordinating with the local N.Y. chapter a program in working with the group of Social Workers, who call themselves the SOCIAL WORKERS FOR CIVIL RIGHTS. The emphasis of this program is to get workers into the offices of the chapters and man a desk for the purpose of giving services to the community which they would not normally receive.

The one other project which is under consideration is the setting up of an East Harlem project using volunteers to be coordinated under the Regional Office. However, we are not prepared at this stage to go into the meat of the project because it is still in the preliminary stages.

In consideration of expenses, my expenses have balanced out to about $60.00 per month.

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danuary 18, 1965

TO: Lou Smith

FROM: Eric Mann

RE: Field Secretary's Report for NAC

PERIOD: Sept. 1964 - Jan. 1965

During the period stated in the outline I have worked to some degree with the following chapters: Syracuse, Yonkers, New Rochelle, Philadelphia, Baltimore, Washington, Mount Vernon, and many of the chapters in New York City.

Trailways

The Trailways project brought me in contact with our chapters in Washington, Baltimore and Philadelphia, as well as the New York City chapters. I am presenting a very superficial report on Trailways because a detailed report on the subject will be forthcoming as soon as some form of conclusion to the project can be achieved. Nonetheless, some general conclusions can certainly be drawn at this point:

1. The project was unsuccessful. There were many reasons for this but the primary one seems inherent in the project itself. That is, having originated from National, then being followed up by Regional, and then brought to the chapters, the chapters felt no vested interest in the

project because they did not plan it, did not know about it, until their help was needed.

Also, the project itself was very difficult to pull off because of 1. the racial antagonism of management. 2. the size of the company. 3. the amount of work it would take to truly mobilize the Negro community in any way. 4. the lack of inherent emotionalism of the issue, which made it difficult to arouse the interest and enthusiasm of the "man in the street".

2. The project gave me some excellent insights into our chapter structure, and sharply focused some of the problems in several chapters.
3. The project involved CORE in a dispute with a discriminatory union and helped initiate some thinking on our policies in such a situation. Enclosed is a copy of a short position paper I wrote about our relationships with discriminatory unions.
4. The project involved the Philadelphia chapter in a dispute with the Philadelphia NAACP which has united the chapter, given it some excellent publicity, and in a small way changed the balance of power in the Negro community in CORE's favor.

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January 20, 1965

TO: Jim McCain
FROM: Judy Howell, Task Force
RE: Progress Report on the Progressive Choice Reading Program

It has been very difficult to organize the Progressive Choice Reading Program pilot projects. There have been four (4) main reasons for this difficulty.

1. This is the first time that the chapters have been confronted with a program of this type.
2. The young people that are involved with CORE usually are not and do not hang out with illiterates or drop-outs.
3. Some chapters in communities that need this help the most are completely uncooperative and uninterested in the program (i.e. N.Y.CORE).
4. The chapters that have a program already set up say they want to incorporate PCRP into it, but refuse to sit down and arrange testing date. (i.e. CCNY CORE)

The first pilot project was opened in the South Bronx at St. Anne's Church, 140th Street and St. Anne's Ave., on Saturday, Dec. 19, 1964. Dr. Woolman brought the Institute of Educational Research staff up from Washington to train 4 instructors. Brooklyn and CCNY observers voiced interest in the program.

A testing date was set for Sat., Jan. 9, 1965, at St. Anne's. National CORE brought testing materials for the young people. However, we had a very poor showing. Out of 50 young people contacted, 10 showed up. The tests were given and 8 people were found eligible for the program. There will be another testing period on Jan. 22, 1965. Harold Davidson of Bronx CORE has urged several community groups to help him assemble a sizeable showing at that time. I will be meeting with all of the interested chapters this week. My main concern is to get the actual teaching started in the South Bronx, so that it can serve as an example for the other chapters in the pilot area.

Jackson

General File

Feb. 12, 1965
Ed Hollander

~~Information survey~~
report on information survey of projects, Feb. 9,10,11,12 1965

Mississippi freedom schools, from talk with Liz Fusco

there are no freedom schools as such anymore, the whole revolution has now become a problem of education and the projects themselves are education projects and there are no artificial divisions between freedom schools and other programs

Needs

The main needs are for cars, gasoline and car repairs and postage money which mainly menas money, unless people will donate cars. As the project s are now centered around education the needs is to be able to get out and reach as many people with that program as possible thus transportation is the greatest need. Books are not needed at present and at any time they want only books they request and do not want general shipments anymore. They are not sure what books would be good to have because they don't know what they should be teaching, i.e. forcing on the"students" if their interests lean to something else and at this point they are still learning from the people what they want to learn./ She says the field hasn't request books yet. They deal with Bob Gottlieb of Simon & Schuster who is acting as a representative of all publishers and get their books from him when they want them. Liz plans to continue to deal with him and not with the Southern Office. Money should be sent to Liz or to COFO where, I believe she said, it goes into a freedom school or education account. She wants CORE to be concerned with all of Mississippi and not be provincial about the fourth district. She says CORE is a part of COFO and CORE's concern should be statewide.

Louisiana

Typewriters, Baton Rouge office: 1 useable, 1 barely useable, 1 borken, not useble

FLORIDA

Freedom Schools This week or next monday the first florida freedom school is going to be opened. Run by Jimmy Card, a local volunteer, address same as projects address. It is a freedom school and community center combined. Their needs are: a sewing machine, a typewriter, a black board (with erasers ane chalk),

and general supplies such as pencils, sissors, scotch tape, paints and burshes, and a fan. He said they don't need any books right now, but of course the program is just beginning and they may find they will need books.

Florida Typewriter report 1 and it is in very bad condition

State project needs main need is for money to pay bills, the following are approximate figures, $200 phone bill, $112 gasoline, $900 car rental, $100 AB Dick. Other needs: mimeo paper, long (#10) envelopes, CORE membership cards, Freedom Now pins, FREedom Now tee shirts, contribution envelopes, at least 200 CORE-lators every issue, another car, a typewriter (in addition to the one requested for the freeom school), and to have Le Ann Faucette put on the task force. They also want to know why there was no lawyer at the trial of Elvie Carroll, apparently it was this week. John Coe was supposed to come from Pensacola but didn't, Carl Rachlin had made that arrangement. They managed to get a continuance until the next session of the circuit court. They are, rightfully it seems, a little hot about this. They want to know what's happening with John Due and what chances would be of having him come back.

Everyone I talked to was reminded about the 10th of the month report. And they were also told to direct book requests to this office and not the publishers.

2446 North 4th Street
Columbus, Ohio

FIELD REPORT

To: Jim McCain for transmittal to George Wiley and N.A.C.
From: Mike Lesser
Subject: Activities for the period of November and December, 1964; summary of expenses and projected needs; projected activities through February, 1965; Evaluation and Comments
Date: January 24, 1965

1. Activity: November-December, 1964.

Since arriving in Ohio in September I have been attempting to visit, and spend time with each of the chapters in the state. None of them had seen a field secretary, on other than a "passing through" visit, for over a year. This task was completed during November and December including all affiliated and un-affiliated groups with the exception of Dayton, where the CORE group was disaffiliated, and Springfield, where the chapter is now defunct. Following is a list of chapters and group visited, and the amount of time spent with each group during November and December;

Columbus CORE.....10 days
Trumbull CTY. CORE(Warren).4 days
Toledo CORE.....10 days
Cincinnati CORE.....5 days
Akron CORE.....5 days
Kent State Univ. group.....2 days

Other activities included a state metting of Ohio chapters in Columbus, a weekend conference of S.D.S. community action projects in Cleveland and a Regional Action Council meeting in Chicago.

Summary of chapter visits:

Columbus. After a faction fight which was very disruptive, this group has been trying to get back on its feet with a new chairman, and move into the ghetto area of Columbus. With them I have run workshops on canvassing, organizing; and advised on reorganization of chapter administration and revision of their constitution.

Warren. On visits to Trumbull Cty CORE observed operation of the chapter, and dicsussed finances, projects and membership with the membership in preparation for a recommendation on affiliation, which was submitted prior to Dec. 19 NAC meeting at which the group was affiliated.

Toledo. Toledo CORE is a recently re-organized chapter with new leadership and relatively inexperienced personnel. Have been meeting with each officer and committee chairman to discuss functions, and have been helping direct a project aimed at organizing neighborhoods to fight school problems they are having. Also planning an office operation in the downtown ghetto and program workshops.

Cincinnati. This chapter has been enduring faction problems, personality problems, reorganization and lack of programming. I have spent time there orienting a new chairman and attempting to help the group deal with those problems.

Akron. This is a young but stable chapter beginning to work in the ghetto community. Most of the work here is to develop program competence and content through workshops and discussions with officers and membership.

Kent State University. This is a university group which has been in existence for over a year, but is not affiliated. They have had trouble organizing on campus and are not ready for affiliation. In discussion with the leaders of the group we have worked out possible projects for building membership and support. There is some hope for them to build a useful program in their area.

II. Projected Activity.

Chapter visits:

In this area it will be necessary to do two things in the next couple of months, as well as past that time: 1. Spend more time with those chapters which have already been serviced in Ohio. As noted, most have internal problems and/or program needs, and these needs cannot be coped with effectively in one or two visits, but need periodic attention to help development. Long visits of up to a month's duration would be advantageous, but are impractical under present conditions. 2. Visit groups which have not yet been serviced. I hope, by the end of February, to have serviced the groups in Lawrence, and Kansas City, Kansas, Elkhart, Indiana, Charleston, West Virginia and Louisville, Kentucky. Also, there is reported resurgence of activity in Dayton, Ohio, and I want to get there soon.

Work-Study project:

I have had recent contact with the director of the new work-study program at Wilberforce University, and the head of the Sociology department there, with the idea of developing an internship program for Negro social science students to spend their work periods as full time employees of CORE chapters and as Summer "task force" workers with chapters in Northern urban communities in order to: 1. develop, over a period of time, professionally competent workers, and 2. fill the needs that chapters have for full time personnel. Contacts are also being made with Central State College and an Antioch College in the same area. I hope to develop a firm program by March.

Other:

By the end of February I hope to be sending out a series of mimeographed memos to area chapters on chapter operation, fund raising, programming and committee functions.

III. Expenses.

Because I am compiling this report while on a visit to a chapter, I do not have all my past expense reports, and cannot, therefore, give a complete breakdown of all expenses. I will attempt, however, to provide summary information.

Average expenses:

Working from five recent expense reports, which I do have on hand, my average expenses for one week work out as follows:

Lodging.....	$00.00
Transportation.....	12.20
Meals.....	13.86
Miscellaneous.....	2.56
Total weekly avg.....	$28.62

Although this average is not exact, I would think that the amounts are fairly representative.

Projected expenses:

My expenses for the next few months should run pretty much the same as above. The only difference would be an increase in travel costs when I start going to Kansas, Indiana, Kentucky and West Virginia. But, because I am now driving a car instead of taking Greyhound buses and local public transportation, costs should lower accordingly-enough to compensate for the increases in distance.

IV. Evaluation and Comments.

Because I had been away from the North for almost two years when I began to work in Ohio this Fall, there was a gap in my understanding of program needs, goals and chapter operation, and I had to, in a sense, give myself a cram course in what to do and how to do it. The National Office was very little help in that regard. There was no training or orientation program, and very little literature in the office to draw upon. This I had to search out for myself, for the most part. Fortunately, experience in the South had prepared me pretty well in organizing technique. There I think we are more knowledgeable than Northern CORE groups.

In working in Ohio I find that the chapters have problems resulting from inattention by National, which could be solved if the attempt were made.

Programming and direction:

The chapters have had little direction in determining their role in the community, and almost no help in programming. For my part, aside from personal help, I have had to direct them to literature sources other than CORE for help. While it is the role of the field secretary to assist in this area, it is necessary that general direction be provided by National as well as tools, so that the field secretary has a framework to use and the chapter to follow.

Communication and responsiveness:

Most chapters I have visited feel hostility toward National for other reasons also. They have a terrible time getting the literature, buttons and other material they request, or getting letters answered promptly. Some have given up writing to National and find they can get their needs attended to only by long distance phone.

Lack of relevant literature:

In terms of developing community awareness, for fund raising and for membership education CORE literature is out of date. It does not relate to chapter activities. More topical literature is urgently needed.

Saturday, February 27, 1965

At 11:30 today about 40 pickets arrived at the Federal Building to protest and demonstrate against the decision of Judge Cox on the civil rights case involving Sheriff Rainey and 16 others. (Yesterday there was a half-hour token demonstration with 14 people, led by Mrs. Fannie Lee Chaney, mother of the murdered civil rights worker, James Chaney.) The picket line today was composed of adults and students from Neshoba, Clarke, and Lauderdale counties.

The demonstrators converged on the building from both sides in groups of 3 and 4 each. After attining the steps of the building, they pulled picket signs from under coats, sweaters, and jackets, unfolded them, merged into a single line, and began picketing andsinging freedom songs. (It seems that there is a law that states that they are liable to arrest for "Parading without a permit" if the signs are displayed openly on the street.) Today's group was led by Barbara Chaney Moss, sister of James Chaney. Also in the line was 11 year old Ben Chaney, her brother.

One of the picket signs read, "Impeach Judge Cox." Others read, "Murder is a Misdemeanor in Mississippi", "Smile, Mississippi, you're on Candid Camera!", etc. On the sidewalk in fron t of the building was the chief of police, numerous patrolmen, and about 150 onlookers. There was considerable heckling and name-calling by a group ofwhite youths with no interference by the police.

After two hours of picketing and spirited singing, the signs were surreptitiously disposed of, and we left in groups of four, (Again to avoid the anti-parade laws.) There were no arrests and no incidents.

Richard Tinsley

Miss.

March 23, 1965

Dave:

We have received word that two more people have been killed in Mississippi.

I brought the partial list of Racial Murders in the South with me, and we are trying to keep it up to date. If you have any information to substantiate this, please call this office by Friday.

We have used the list in several meetings around the state with very favorable results.

Freedom,

Ivon D. Reynolds

cc: Richard Haley

Canton, Miss Monday March 29, 1965 Hollander

memorial service held as Asbury Methodist Church (Rev. McCree) for Mrs. Luizzo. Church was filled, that's about 300 people, ver roughly. 11 AM All Negro businesses closed and one white one. Speakers were Charels Evers, Aaron Henry, Geo. Rymond, Rev. McCree and Mrs. Devine and Father Luke, white catholic priest in Canton.

Canton, Miss March 30, 1965 Tuesday

Either date reportedly anniversary of adoption of 15th Amendment

44 people marched to the courthouse, allowed to go inside the building very quickly, probably lined up inside the courthouse. reports that they are being processed very quickly. Federal district judge Cox has ordered registrar I. Foote Campbell to be as lienent with each Negro as with the least qualified white who has regisered. the march not really a CORE of COFO program but something propsed at county convention 3/27/65 by Charles Evers. He and Aaron Henry were on the scene, but march permit was restricted to residents of Madison Co. very much press, all networks, wire services, Wilson Minor from the Times-Picayune, and others. Mrs. Devine on hand, Dick Dewett and Geo. Raymond and others. Strong feeling on part of CORE staff not to continue marches

4-28-65

Mr. Haley,

Preston Wilcox asked me to send you this.

Good Luck,

Frederick Johnson
468 Riverside Dr.
NYC 27

(Read + acknowl)

MISSISSIPPI FREEDOM PROJECT

"A PROPOSAL FOR A TRAINING PROGRAM
FOR COMMUNITY CENTER WORKERS IN MISSISSIPPI"

SUBMITTED by

Frederick Johnson

INTRODUCTION

The Mississippi Freedom Summer is over. Most of the northern volunteers have returned home. Some will stay. Professional groups, mostly originating from outside of Mississippi such as the Medical Committee for Human Rights, the Lawyers Constitutional Defense Committee, the National Council of Churches and others who lent support, performed services and provided a "presence" have made plans to remain in Mississippi, although with minimum staffs. The backbone of the "Movement," the SNCC (or COFO)* workers who have been in the field long before the Freedom Summer and the local Mississippians who have become a part of the "Movement" will remain and carry the major burden of the continuing struggle.

Central to the civil rights movement have been the Freedom Schools and community centers which have been established in towns and cities where there is a COFO Project. Some of these schools and centers are primitive and inadequate, but others are well established and functioning. Many more community centers are planned and the need for programs, leadership, supplies and equipment can be expected to increase beyond the present capacity of the "Movement."

Therefore this proposal seeks to develop new resources for the maintenance of present and projected community centers in Mississippi.

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* Council of Federated Organizations - This confederation includes SNCC, NAACP, CORE and SCLC

The community center programs as they are projected will be multi faceted, covering a range of social, educational, civic and health programs. It is expected that most of the community centers will have modest beginnings and limited programs, but as the "Movement" grows and new opportunities are created for the local Mississippian the community center will become a vehicle for the expression of the goals, interests, needs and desires of the local inhabitants.

Community center programs will be subordinate to, but supportive of the overall "Movement." The activities become an integral part of the "Movement."

The community center will be a focal point for the "Movement" where all the people in the town may gather and have the opportunity to strengthen their sense of "community" and identification with the "Movement." The community center thus becomes a place where individuals may have the opportunity to express and develop their personalities and talents through social, educational and recreational activities. The community center will be the meeting place where the people will work toward solving their problems. The centers will serve to house other services and facilities as they become available i.e., medical, legal, educational etc. This program would be a logical forerunner to a more broadly based community development program.

Because of the nature of the community center as a neighborhood or community institution and because of the

social and political realities in Mississippi it is very important that local indigenous leadership be developed and encouraged to its fullest. Much of the impetus for the freedom "Movement" has come from outside of Mississippi, but it was only when local Mississippians went out and registered to vote, joined demonstrations, attempted to integrate the schools, and became politically active did the "Movement" really move. If this revolution is to become a social and political force it must become a movement of and by the people of Mississippi. This program in a small way seeks to foster this objective by using outside specialized help not to do for the people of Mississippi, but to provide them with the tools, know how and support to do for themselves.

THE PROGRAM - AN OVERVIEW

This training program proposes to train native Negro Mississippians who have demonstrated leadership potential in the recent "Freedom Movement" in the state of Mississippi. These indigenous people will be trained as community center workers and as such they will be prepared to develop, operate and initiate community center programs in those towns and cities where the "Movement" has already established civil rights programs and projects.

There will be 20 indigenous leaders in the training program - two from each of ten towns or cities where there are community center facilities.*

The training will consist of 3 phases. The first two phases (total of 5 weeks) will take place at a central training site in Mississippi. The 3rd phase will be the field training at the respective community center locations.

The training content will include the following:

a. Fundamentals of Human Behavior

The trainees will be introduced to some of the meanings and motivations for common behavior patterns. The needs and characteristics of age and sex groups will also be explored. At all times material introduced will be related to specific examples, problems and life situations that the trainees can relate to in terms of their own life experiences.

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* A community center facility as it exists in Mississippi may be a wooden one story home, a small church or a simply constructed shelter or building.

b. The Organization and Management of Community Centers

This phase of the training will cover the elementary principles of administering a community center program. Forms, instruction sheets, outlines, check lists etc. which specifically relate to management of a center will be provided for the trainees future use. Administrative machinery and procedure will be simple and minimal.

c. Program Administration

This will cover the elements of good planning; the steps involved in initiating new programs; how one can analyze a program; the values derived from various activities.

d. Leadership

This very important aspect of the training will utilize the technique of role playing as a primary teaching method. In this way the classroom situation can be made to more closely simulate the life situations in the field. This phase of the training will cover the basic skills and techniques used by a leader in motivating and involving people.

e. The Use of Recreation Equipment and Educational Materials

A basic kit of recreation and educational materials will be provided each trainee for use in his or her own community center program. The proper use of the kit materials will be demonstrated and used by the trainees during the course of the training period. Other equipment which may not be in the kits will be available for demonstration and blueprints made available so that local people in the community center may construct some of the items.

f. Development of Skills

Some of the skill areas in which the trainees will be specifically instructed will be:

1. Leading discussion groups, holding meetings, addressing groups etc.
2. Teaching and preparing lessons.
3. Conducting games, social, cultural and athletic activities, music, dance and drama.

It is impossible to make a trainee proficient in any one skill area in a short time. What will be attempted is an introduction to the various activity possibilities. Each trainee will be encouraged to utilize any special skills or talents he or she brings to the situation. In addition the trainees will be taught how to exploit the special activity skills of volunteers and how these people can be integrated into the instructional aspect of the program.

g. Other Areas

A substantial part of the curriculum will be determined by the trainee group itself. What they feel should be included in the training will be based upon their understanding of the situation in their areas and what they feel they need in order to do the job. The training program will thus maintain a degree of flexibility throughout.

h. Supplemental Training

Other courses of a generic nature designed for the COFO (SNCC) civil rights volunteer will also be scheduled for the trainees of this group. Background information, designed to sharpen the trainees existing knowledge of the socio-cultural,

economic and political structure of Mississippi, will be provided.

When the community center worker finishes training he returns to the community in which he lives to work in a community center.

He is paid a minimum living wage by COFO (the minimum living wage is determined by what the average unskilled Negro worker receives in Mississippi - about $20.00 + per week). This remuneration is to be distinguished from the maintenance money the SNCC volunteer receives - $9.00 per week. The community center worker is expected to become a permanent leader in his community. His leadership role in the community center is expected to carry over into other areas of community life. The outside source of income allows this individual to become somewhat independent of the local white power structure.

SELECTION OF TRAINEES

Trainees will primarily be selected and screened by the COFO Project Directors in the field (see appendix A). The individuals selected should be those men and women who have demonstrated leadership potential as a result of their participation in the "Movement."

The other prime requisite for selection is that the individuals selected have some natural talents for dealing with people. Those individuals who have a "feel" for working with others; who seem to have "a way with children"; who form easy comfortable relationships with people of all ages; who seem to have a keen intuitive sense of the dynamics of human behavior, are the types of individuals suitable for this training program. To sum up, it is felt that certain qualities such as maturity, resourcefulness, sensitivity, insight, compassion, empathy, intelligence and a good concept of self provide the most important basis for selection for a program in which human relations skills are basic.

Other criteria that must be considered in the selection are:

1. Men and women 21 - 40 years of age.
2. A High School education or an equivalent level of literacy. The ability to handle reading and writing skills is essential for there will be no direct on-going supervision for the community center workers

and the continued growth and development of the worker will depend largely upon his ability to research problems and instruct himself by reading.

3. Good health and the capacity for extensive physical activity.

4. A philosophical grounding and commitment to non-violence and the civil rights movement.

COMMUNITY CENTER PROGRAMS

There is no real precedent or models for the community centers that are in existence or that are planned for the future, but there will be several factors which will be consistent for the present. One is that the community center programs will be an essential part of the "Movement." Another is that the personnel will primarily be non-professional. Lastly the community center will be run by and for the poor people in the Negro communities of Mississippi.

The above factors indicate that the programs that will develop in the community center in Mississippi will be consistent with and adapted to the life styles of the people in the community. This does not mean that the community center becomes another institution or a part of the old social fabric called "the southern way of life." It does mean that the community center relates itself to the cultural patterns and communal traditions of poor people - at the same time that it becomes an institution fostering profound social changes.

Some of the possible types of program activities that may be unique to the Mississippi community center described herein might be as follows:

a. A Mutual Aid Depot

The community center would be supplied with food and small amounts of money which would be issued to those people in the community who become the victims of economic retaliation as a result of their participation in civil rights

activities. Naturally this program would also be available to those people in the community who are simply in need. The informal mutual aid arrangements which exist now among neighbors is to be encouraged, but this situation quickly becomes a drain on poor people. In this program, people do not necessarily apply for aid in whatever form it might be needed, but are sought out by the community center worker when situations of want are discovered. The aid is a mutual arrangement and the recipient has many opportunities to reciprocate by working in the community center. There is little loss of dignity in this type of program. All contribute to the storehouse when they are able and outside contributions of food, money and other items also go into this bank.

b. Lending Library of Books, Games & Educational Materials

Most community centers now have libraries and a lending-out system is in operation, but this program is limited to those who can read. In rural Mississippi many cannot read and these people are in even greater need of experiences which might be stimulating or enjoyable. In this program not only books would be in circulation, but also games of all kinds, educational materials, puzzles, modeling clay, transistor radios, paints, crayons, paper, records, musical instruments etc. (some items naturally are expendable.) There would be items for the young and old. A system of home visiting by volunteers might be set up to introduce and make available some of the items in the lending program.

c. Construction of Equipment

All community centers will be provided with blueprints and money for the materials to construct games (table tennis tables, knoc hockey, modified bowling games, scooters etc.), playground equipment (jungle jim, swings, play sculptures etc.), athletic facilities (basketball courts, horseshoe pitching courts, volleyball courts etc.). Many other recreational facilities and apparatus could be acquired in this way.

This program would draw heavily upon local people with construction skills - thus the community involvement benefits should be great.

d. Visitors Bureau

Many people from all walks of life (especially the professions) have been drawn to Mississippi; some as visitors; some to help with the civil rights struggle e.g. doctors, nurses, teachers, lawyers, ministers, politicians.

Most of these visitors come from backgrounds very different from the Negro Mississippian and work at jobs that very few of the local adults work at. As part of the on-going educational program these visitors would be given the opportunity as they go from town to town and community center to community center to address groups of local people and to ask and answer questions.

The objective of this program would be to acquaint the Mississippi people with other people, professions, places and ways of life - a widening of horizons. In a small way the visitors will also be providing occupational role models for the young Mississippian. This process is a

two way street for this format allows the visitor to learn more about the people of Mississippi. Thus the visitor can speak more knowledgeably about Mississippi and its inhabitants when he goes home and hopefully create support for the "Movement."

e. Letter Writing and Mail

Paul Jacobs, a researcher on the subject of poverty* has observed that the poor do not receive mail. He further states that mail constitutes a reaffirmation of one's existence. It establishes in a very concrete way one's identity and sense of belonging in the world. This program very simply involves giving the participants the materials (postage, envelopes, paper and addresses) to write letters so that they can receive replies to their letters. In most cases the letters will contain requests for free information. The types of information requested might include travel folders which tell the letter writer in picture and print something about other parts of the world. There is an unlimited number of free government pamphlets which instruct the reader in a wide variety of subjects from agriculture to venereal diseases. There are many other foundations, corporations and

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* Jacobs, Paul, "The Permanent Paupers", paper delivered at the American Orthopsychiatric Conference, Chicago, Ill. March, 1964.

agencies who will send very elaborate packets of materials primarily of an educational nature.

Beside the salutory benefits of simply receiving mail, this type of program has other obvious values;

1. It gives the individual practice in written language skills.
2. It provides the individual with information.
3. It establishes ties with individuals outside of the community in which one lives - this is especially true when the letter writing becomes an exchange of correspondence.
4. It gives the individual a skill very much needed in a complex world - it allows the individual to express himself in a way that might not have been fully exercised before.

f. Sponsorship of Community Centers

It is suggested here that programs in community centers outside of Mississippi might be set up whereby these centers would sponsor a community center in Mississippi. For example, the community centers and settlement houses in the Negro communities of New York City might adopt a community center in Mississippi. Funds might be raised through center dances. Recreation materials, books etc. might be collected and sent to Mississippi. The relationship would be made as permanent and personal as possible. Pictures of groups, facilities and surrounding areas could be exchanged. The individuals both

North and South would come to know something of the conditions that exist in each area. It is expected that the northern Negro would draw inspiration and a sense of pride and identification with the freedom movement in Mississippi. The Mississippi Negro would feel that "we are not alone" and would gain support - both spiritual and material. The benefits of this program can be as great for the outside of Mississippi sponsoring group as for the Mississippi community center for there are few other activities which do as much for improving one's self concept as doing something for others. The people in the northern Negro communities are largely a deprived group and wouldn't ordinarily be expected to be able to give of themselves or materially. But this is the group most in need of activities which provide the opportunity of developing a more positive self image, a sense of pride and an identification with a creative social movement.

Community centers and settlement houses in other ethnic and income areas outside of Mississippi will also be involved in this type of program. The program values for them will be much the same as for the deprived northern Negro.

The above described programs in no way indicate priorities or emphasis. They are merely program possibilities and are not all inclusive. Child care, health programs, guidance and counselling, and the conventional recreation and athletic programs have not been elaborated upon. Some

of these programs require professional assistance; some are very expensive. The community centers as they presently are conceived will be prepared to integrate these programs when they become available or feasible in terms of money and personnel. The more basic programs of civil rights, basic education and political organization have been the focus thus far and will continue to be in the future. Initially specialized outside assistance plus substantial local support will be needed to implement these basic programs which involve basic changes in the social structure. This proposal addresses itself primarily to the development of local support, local leadership and self-help programs which are supportive of the primary objective of "freedom" in its broadest sense.

CONCLUDING REMARKS

There is no illusion that this training program is a nice neat package that only needs to be unwrapped. There will be no finished products and plenty of rough edges, but the training program does hope to establish a beginning and also a system or structure in which the community center can grow. The leaders will have to undertake the major portion of the training by educating themselves. Most of the learning will take place as a result of trial and error. Most of the programs will depend upon the resourcefulness of the leaders and the local people.

It is also expected that the process of working through problems and creating in the face of adversity will stimulate a sense of vitality and power among those involved. No better illustration of this can be found then among those young people in the "Movement" who single-handed have taken on the awesome white power structure of Mississippi.

ADMINISTRATION

This training program was set up at the request of COFO in Mississippi.

The ranking COFO staff person who will be participating in this program is Jesse Morris, Project Director, Jackson, Mississippi office. Lorne Cress is the COFO liason person with the Training Program Committee in New York.

Generally COFO will be responsible for the following:

1. Recruitment and selection of the trainees. This will be done in cooperation with the COFO project directors in the various locations where the community centers will operate.
2. Securing and preparing the training facility.
3. Accomodations and maintenance for the instructors and trainees.
4. Disbursement of funds.

Training Program Instructors

Patricia Cayo Sexton - Associate Professor of Sociology, School of Education, New York University.
author: "Education and Income"
"Spanish Harlem: Anatomy of Poverty"

Preston R. Wilcox - Ass't Professor of Social Work, Columbia School of Social Work.

Mary Dowery - Director of Training of Non-Professionals, Lincoln Hospital Mental Health Services, Albert Einstein College of Medicine, Yeshiva University

Frederick Johnson - Borough Manager & Director of Program Services, Police Athletic League, Inc. (Administrator of the Jackson, Mississippi office for the Medical Committee for Human Rights during summer 1964).

The above instructors will be conducting the 1st phase of the training program in Mississippi (3 weeks - see "Schedule")

Other instructors will be recruited to supplement the above team of instructors for subsequent phases of the training.

All instructors serve on a voluntary basis.

Schedule for Training Program (Tentative)

1st phase

February 8 - 29, 1965 Training Program (to be conducted by the 4 instructors at training site in Mississippi).

2nd phase

May 17 - 30, 1965 Follow-up Training Program (to be conducted by 2 to 4 instructors at the training site in Mississippi).

3rd phase

August 1 - 31, 1965 Field Training (to be conducted at the community center locations in the various towns of Miss.).

During the first 6 months that the community centers are in operation one of the Training Committee instructors will be stationed in Mississippi on a paid basis. The role of this field person will be to:

1. Act as a consultant to the community center workers.
2. Explore new program possibilities.
3. Make contacts with local community agencies and individuals.
4. Coordinate the activities of the Training Committee in New York with the programs in Mississippi.

The nature and content of future training and supervision will be based upon an evaluation of the total program.

BUDGET

Funding responsibility of the Training Program Committee -

To be requested from Foundations

Supplies & Equipment (see appendix B for detailed list of items)	$ 15,000.00
Cash Account $500. to be deposited in local banks for each of 10 community centers. To be used by community center workers for the purchase of construction materials and miscellaneous items.	5,000.00
Salary - Field Consultant for Community Centers (6 month period) This worker would be permanently stationed in Mississippi for a 6 month period. As the program develops there may be a need to continue having a person stationed in Mississippi. In this event, additional funds will be sought.	5,000.00
Operating Expenses (for Training Committee and Field Consultant . The major portion of these costs will be incurred in Miss. for such items as transportation, telephone, misc. etc.)	5,000.00
TOTAL	$ 30,000.00

Funding Responsibility of COFO - 1st phase only
(estimates)

Airplane fare for instructors (4) (Round trip N.Y.C. and Jackson, Miss.)	$ 600.00
Transportation expenses for trainees (from Miss. towns to training site and return)	100.00
Maintenance expenses for trainees (primarily food, since the training facility will be free - instructors assume costs of own meals)	660.00
TOTAL	$ 1,360.00

On-going Expenses - COFO

Salaries for Trainees (Community Center Workers - 20) $20,800. per annum
(to begin at start of training program 2-8-65)

Rate per worker	$ 20.00 per week
" " "	1,040.00 per annum
TOTAL	$20,800.00

The Training Program Committee

The Training Committee, which is composed of the instructors in this training program plus selected individuals with special competance in the field of training, is responsible for:

1. Selection of instructors, field supervisors and consultants.
2. Content of the program.
3. Conducting the training program.
4. Securing foundation support.
5. Developing programs and activities which would provide for on-going financial support of the community center programs in Mississippi.
6. Coordinating the efforts of various other groups who have or are considering programs relating to community center programs in Mississippi.e.g. National Council of Churches, Social Workers for Civil Rights Action.

The Training Committee has proposed that the National Federation of Settlements and Neighborhood Centers become the fiscal agent for this program. It was also proposed that some kind of on-going supervisory relationship be established. Margaret Berry, Executive Directors, NFS and Arthur Hillman, Director, Training Center, NFS, have expressed interest in this program and the above proposals are now being considered.

APPENDIX A

A GUIDE FOR PROJECT DIRECTORS IN SELECTING APPLICANTS FOR THE TRAINING PROGRAM

I. See "A Proposal For A Training Program For Community Center Workers In Mississippi" for an overally description of the program and a general description of the type of applicants sought.

II. Upon completion of the training program the community center worker will be expected to be responsible for the operation of a community center with a minimum of supervision. The worker will be expected to initiate various programs and involve the local community in these programs. The worker must be flexible and resourceful in utilizing community resources. The ability to communicate with people on all levels will be a primary skill.

This worker must be able to supervise volunteer workers. He must be able to accept responsibility and follow through on his commitments.

The worker must have a sense of organization for many aspects of community center work require a business-like approach.

III. Some questions the Project Director might ask himself in considering applicants:

a. How well has this person performed as a leader on previous occasions?

b. Whom do you feel is most capable of acting as a chairman of a group or president of a club?

c. Whom do you feel most influences the opinions of people in the community?

d. Whom do you feel is most worthy of acting as a representative of the "Movement."

e. How well is this person liked by other members of the community? Does he or she have a wide circle of friends?

f. How well does this person use "common sense" in various situations?

g. Is this person able to focus on the problems of others?

IV. The following are some undesireable traits which should be considered in the final selection of applicants.

- dominating, authoritarian, "bossy"
- reckless, irresponsible, impetuous
- publicity seeking, self centered, immature
- impatient, inconsiderate, insensitive

V. It is essential that the applicants selected be those individuals who live in the community where the community center is located,(which will be the community center that the individual will work in.)

<u>The individuals selected should be those who expect to remain in their own communities after their training is completed</u>. It is very important that applicants who expect to leave Mississippi in the near future are not chosen.

DIRECTIONS: APPLICATIONS FOR TRAINING PROGRAM

I. At the time of the Project Director's interview with the applicant the Project Director should tell the applicant about the Training Program and have the applicant read the "Proposal" describing the Training Program. Allow the applicant to ask questions.

II. Only <u>two applicants</u> from each Project will be selected to participate in the Training Program, but you may have as many as you wish apply.

III. Try to have only those who meet the requirements apply for the Training Program.

IV. Completed applications should be sent by the Project Director to _____, where a committee will review all applications and make a final selection.

NOTE: Subsequent paid employment as a Community Center Worker depends upon successful completion of the Training Program.

COUNCIL OF FEDERATED ORGANIZATIONS

APPLICATION FOR TRAINING PROGRAM

DATE_____

NAME MR. / MRS. / MISS _____ _____
LAST NAME FIRST MIDDLE TELEPHONE NO.

MAIDEN NAME_____

ADDRESS_____
STREET CITY P.O. ZONE STATE

AGE_____ DATE OF BIRTH_____HEIGHT____ WEIGHT_____

SINGLE_____DIVORCED_____ WIDOW_____NUMBER OF CHILDREN_____

MARRIED_____ SEPARATED___ WIDOWER_____ NUMBER OF DEPENDENTS_____

ARE YOU A U.S. CITIZEN___ HAVE YOU SERVED IN THE U.S. ARMED FORCES___

INDICATE BRANCH OF SERVICE_____ DATE ENTERED_____ DATE DISCHARGED___

CHARACTER OF DISCHARGE_____ WHAT IS YOUR PRESENT MILITARY STATUS___

IN CASE OF EMERGENCY NOTIFY_____
NAME ADDRESS PHONE RELATIONSHIP

EDUCATION

NAME OF SCHOOL AND ADDRESS	DATES ATTENDED FROM	TO	GRADUATE WHAT DEGREE	MAJOR COURSES
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL NAME ADDRESS				
HIGH SCHOOL ADDRESS				
COLLEGE ADDRESS				
OTHER ADDRESS				

RECORD OF EMPLOYMENT

LIST PRESENT OR LAST PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT FIRST

NAME & ADDRESS OF FIRM	YOUR POSITION & SUPERVISOR	DATES FROM TO	SALARY START END	REASON FOR LEAVING
NAME ADDRESS				
NAME ADDRESS				
NAME ADDRESS				
NAME ADDRESS				

LIST ANY SPECIAL SKILLS WHICH YOU MAY HAVE WHETHER YOU EVER RECEIVED PAY FOR THEM OR NOT. FOR EXAMPLE: SPORTS, CARPENTRY, PUBLIC SPEAKING, MUSIC , FARMING ETC.

WHAT IS THE CONDITION FO YOUR PRESENT HEALTH_____

HAVE YOU HAD ANY TYPE OF INCAPACITATING INJURY OR DISEASE?____ ____
YES NO

EXPLAIN_____

STATEMENT BY APPLICANT OF REASONS FOR WISHING TO BECOME COMMUNITY CENTER WORKER

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

LIST REFERENCES

1._____

2._____

3._____

DATE_____ APPLICANT'S SIGNATURE_____

APPLICANT WILL NOT WRITE ON THIS PAGE

PROJECT DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS, INCLUDE: WHY YOU HAVE CHOSEN THIS APPLICANT: IN WHAT ORDER OF PREFERENCE WOULD YOU RATE THIS APPLICANT (BASED UPON TOTAL NUMBER OF APPLICANTS)? LENGTH OF TIME APPLICANT HAS BEEN IN "MOVEMENT" AND QUALITY OF PARTICIPATION.

SELECTION COMMITTEE COMMENTS

APPENDIX B

SUPPLIES AND EQUIPMENT NEEDED
FOR COMMUNITY CENTERS IN MISSISSIPPI

There will be 10 community center programs started as a result of the Training Program. Thus the quantity required on the items listed is based upon supplying 10 community centers.

GENERAL

Complete sets of hand carpentry tools (including portable power tools)

Sewing machine (portable)

Phonographs (3 speed portable)

Movie Projectors (3 or 4 projectors can be shared)

Bicycles (for transportation)

Mimeograph machines (3 or 4 can be shared)

Tape Recorders

Radios (include Transistor type)

RECREATIONAL AND SPORTS

Balls of all kinds: basketballs, baseballs, softballs, playballs, volleyballs, footballs, soccer balls whiffle balls, bocee balls etc.

Bats & Gloves

Table tennis nets, balls and clamps

Exercise equipment

Horseshoes

Games of all kinds - chess, checkers, dominoes, scrabble, monopoly, cards, etc.

Camping equipment

Arts and Crafts materials - especially self instruction kits

Paints and Brushes (water, oil, tempera etc.)

Handicraft materials and kits - leathercraft, metalcraft, lanyard lace

Musical Instruments - especially the self-taught kind i.e. harmonicas, guitars, rythym band, plastic flutes etc.

EDUCATIONAL

Maps and Globes

Bulletin boards

Blackboards

Records of all kinds - teaching, storytelling, folk & square dancing, classical etc.

Binoculars, telescopes

Nature study kits

Hobby kits

Dictionaries (childrens and adults)

"How To Do It" books of all kinds

Educational games and puzzles - There is an unlimited variety of these and they are essential

MISCELLANEOUS

Paper of all kinds - mimeo, typing, drawing, newsprint etc.

Pens and pencils

Rulers and scissors

Staplers, file folders

Yard goods, patterns, knitting materials

Magazine subscriptions

Tapes and films

Instruction books of all kinds

Sign and Poster materials - magic markers, stencils etc.

Flashlights

Cameras (preferable Polaroid)

Master

Rankin Co, Miss April 13, 1965

by Debbie Bernstein

church burned in Rankin Co. Mt. Pisgagh in Sand Hill

people had been going to the courthouse from there to register during

past week. Burning started about 10:30 PM, Monday eve /by a 11 some local

person had gotten there and the whole building had caved in. A gasoline

can was found at the scene. People planning to have meeting at the

site on Thurs. to continue vr classes and registration efforts.

36 WATS REPORT

Monday, April 12, 1965

STARKVILLE, MISS. Bill Light/Bab 11 pm

Roosevelt Vaughn's uncle was paid, so he is dropping charges.

A month ago, a person connected with Miss. State U. (a white college) arranged meeting with Bill and Ron Carver, the two white staff workers, and about 10 people connected with the school at the home of one of these people. Last Friday night another meeting was planned; this time, some local Negroes were supposed to come too. This time, only three whites showed up.

Tuesday, April 13, 1965

JACKSON FDP Mike Higson/Bab 8:45 pm

A brief summary of Negro candidates running in May primaries:

Greenwood:	Mary Lane	Police Commissioner
	Alice Blackwell	Mayor
	Pinkie Pilcher	Street Commissioner
Shaw:	Andrew Hopkins	Mayor
Clarksdale:	reportedly they will run one candidate for each office	
Moss Point:	Dr. Saul Johnson	Alderman (independent--not COFO or FDP backed)
Meridian:	Mrs. Croell	City Councilwoman

(In Meridian, NAACP in conjunction with Voters League is talking about running a candidate also.)

RANKIN Co. (from Jackson via Canton) 9:30 pm

Last night the Mt. Pisgah Baptist Church in SandHill Community was burned. It was discovered, totally destroyed, at 11pm last night by Deacon Evans. The church was in isolated area, so no witnesses saw the burning. A gasoline can was found by the rui An AP reporter who released the story to the press (it was on radio and TV) intervie an elder of the church who said it had no connection with civil rights activities. Actually, the church was used for vr meetings weekly, but the church has a very loos organizational structure, so the elder didn't necessarily have to know this. Also, residents of the SandHill area have been going down to register recently.

At 5:30 this afternoon, several shots were fired into the home of Deacon Evans. (His wife Laura is one of 6 people who registered last week. Their daughter works wit COFO.) The FBI came by the house and was very nonchalant. Sheriff Shivers also cam by, and insinuated that the fire had been set by a cousin of the Evans, who also wor for COFO.

This is about the fifth church burning in Rankin Co. since last November. On Thursday, April 15, there will be a mass meeting on the burned church site.

ALBANY, GA. Jim Forman/Bab 9:50pm

The Dougherty County Resource and Development League (an offshoot of the Albany Move is planning a community center and a nursery school. The nursery school is already being set up with a grant from the Presbyterian Church USA, and they are also trying to get Ooverty money for the school from Operation Headstart, LadyBird's program to underprivileged preschool kids.)

HATTIESBURG George Hefler/Bab 11:15 pm Today at the Hattiesburg FDP office, seve white students from Mississippi Southern U. and tow local priests talked with a grou northern white students about voting and other "racial" issues in a meeting sponsored by the Delta Ministry.

BATESVILLE, MISS. Louie Grant/Bab 1:30am At 11:30 tonight (Miss. time) one sh from a shotgun was fired into the home of Mr. Robert Miles, County FDP Chairman, brea a window. It was fired from a car which slowed up as it passed the house; no one wa able to see the car or driver. This is the third time Miles' house has been shot in The second time, Feb. 28, a shot just missed Penny Patch; coincidentally, the third shot landed in almost the same place as that second shot. The Sheriff did nothing at the house, but he is contacting the FBI. John Doar of the Justice Department is also being contacted.

Bat. Rouge

1501½ East Blvd.
Baton Rouge

May 17, 1965

Richard Haley
2209 Dryades
New Orleans

Dear Mr. Haley,

Re the WATS line: A special phone is installed in the state office. Installation charge is the regular $10. Extensions can be installed at $5 installation cost each and $1.85/mo. each service charge.
On these WATS phones we will be able to reach any phone in Louisiana. No calls can be received on them; we can only dial out.
There are two types of service: limited and full. On limited service there is a base charge of $250/mo. For that amount one can make up to 15 hours worth of calls during the month. For every hour above the 15 there is a charge of $15. There is no ceiling amount beyond which one is no longer charged. Thus limited service is only worthwhile if one plans to use the WATS line for less than 31&2/3 hours during the entire month. Each hour over that is another $15. On full service we can make an unlimited amount of calls (within Louisiana) for $500 a month.
The initial deposit for full service is $1000 (one thousand). It must be deposited before the telephone company begins installing the special lines. Putting in those lines takes at least two weeks. So we have to have the thousand at least two weeks before we want to start using the WATS phone. When the deposit is refunded we receive 6% interest on it.

This is all I know so I hope it's enough. If you have any questions I can call the telephone company and get the answers.

Sincerely,

Meg Brown

WATS REPORT

86 MAY 26, 1965

EAST LANSING, MICHIGAN Janette Goldwasser/Jeanne
More than 70 persons, almost all Michigan State studenys are in jail today, waiting to be arraigned for obstructing traffic last night. The students staged a sit-in in front of the city hall in East Lansing to protest the city's failube to eliminate housing discrimination. A speech by Mayor Gordon Thomas earlier in the day sparked off the demonstrations. Thomas spoke to a large crowd at a NAACP meeting. He talked about East Lansing 's progress toward ending discrimination. He defended the city's reluntance to take special action toward speeding up the process of investigation and passing an anti-discrimination measure. The students in the audiance decided that action was needed right away to protest the mayor's lack of action and failure to meet what they considered promises he had made. The group decided to move and sat down in the street for about two hours until Eat Lansing police dragged off the men and carried the women away on stretchers to be booked in East Lansing and taken to Ingham County jail in Mason for the night. Hecklers jeered and police grinned as the students were hauled in.

JACKSON Charlie Howitz/Jeanne MARCH IN RANKIN COUNTY
Local Negro citizens in the Northern section of the forth idstrict of Mississi will march for twenty miles to present a petition to the court house at Brandon, asking for federal registrars in each beat (sub-division) of the county; elimination of the interpertaion section of the voter registration test; seating of Mrs. Annie Devine, the FDP congressional candidate from the forth district. The petition is protesting two church burnings, one on January 21st in Taylorville and the other one in Pisgah on April 12th. The church in Pisgah burned down after 6 people went down to the court house to register to vote a few days previous to the beating; the harrassement arrests of local men who had gone to the court house to attempt to register on January 4th.
The idea for the march came from people who have been active in the FDP and voter registration activities.
The march will begin Friday morning at 7 AM at the Goshen - Fannin school on highway 471 near Fannin, Miss in Rankin County, 30 miles NE of Jackson. the group will camp Friday night in Landon at thr True Vine Baptist church and will have a mass rally. The group will probably arrive in Brandon on Sunday morning.
All activities will be coordinated from the Canton COFO office.

CHICAGO Ralph Rappaport/ Margaret
Today about 24 people associted with the Chicage SNCC office was admitted to the second day of the HUAC hearings which began at 9 AM. The group devided in half. They stood up and tried to disrupt the hearings by saying that they were opposed to what was going on. They charged that during the hearings people's characters were being slandered. A woman on the witness stand was testifying about peace and civil rights groups. She said that people in the groups were communists. She alos called names od individuals. There was no chance in the testimony for the lawyers of the people she called communists to dispute these charges. The two grouos of people were taken into federal custody by U.S. marshalls. At 4:15 PM the groups were taken before U.S. Commissioner Pike. It is believed that they were charged with "interfering with the proceedings of a Congressional

more

CHICAGO (con't)
committee. The group was supposedly released on their on reconizance On Yesterday only two of the people arrested were held. They were Ron Woodard, arrested for sitting down outside the hearing after he was told that he could not re-enter, and Ron Selig, University of Chicago student, who got up in the hearings and sadd that he couldn't tolerate the slander that was going on. People who laid down under the wheels of the paddy wagon were released under regular C hicago municipal bond ($2.00 each). Yesterday SNCC office was told that Woodard and Selig were charged with contempt of Congress, but this morning the charge was contempt of court. This morning the two were brought before Federal Judge Campbell who dismissed these charges saying that they were irrevelant. No attempt has been made to re-arrest them on charge of interfering with the proceedings of a Congressional Committee.

MASTER

Monday, May 17, 1965 1 PM RANKIN CO. MISS
George Raymond to Ed Hollander

a voter registration march is ~~set~~ planned for Rankin Co. Miss
~~for~~
for May 28 and 29, Friday and Saturday. The march will be from Goshen Springs (NW part of the county) to the county seat - Brandon in the center of the county, a distance of 18-20 miles. The marchers will leave from across the street from the Goshen Springs and Fanning Springs school and march the first day to Langford, along highway 471. There will be a mass meeting in the True Vine Church (?) and people will camp out near the church. In case of rain there are several buildings nearby, the church, a mason hall, a barn, etc. The next day, Saturday the 29th, they will continue the march to the Brandon courthouse where adults will attempt to register. Non-voting age persons will picket the courthouse, etc. Late in the day there will be a freedom rally at the courthouse. In the county 13,250 whites and 6,950 Negroes are eligible to register; no figures on how many reg.

For the two weeks preceeding the march there will be meetings in various places in the county. There will be a big rally on Thurs, May 27 in the Mt. Pisgah church. A request has gone to Farmer to participate in the march, but no answer yet. In the last several weeks 109-125 people have attempted to register, and only 10-12 have passed.

The people working in Rankin Co are Geo. Raymond, Martha Wright and Suzanne Maxon, a volunteer. Martha was arrested Sun/May 16 for no taillights on the truck; she got out of jail this morning. After she was arrested policeman harassed George. George says they may have 1,000 people in Brandon on Sat. May 29. Geo also said that there will be picketing of the courthouse all during the week before the march

Walk For FREEDOM IN Rankin County

THE NEGRO CITIZENS OF RANKIN COUNTY WILL MARCH FROM GOSHEN-FANNIN TO THE COURT-HOUSE IN BRANDON ON MAY 28-29, 1965 BECAUSE:

1. Over 30% of the population of Rankin are Negroes and they are denied their right to vote by police brutality and an illegal voter registration system. We want a FEDERAL Registrar in EACH Beat.

2. The five congressmen who now sit in the Congress of the United States supposedly representing the people of Mississippi do NOT represent us. We support the Freedom Democratic Party's congressional challange and DEMAND that Mrs. Annie Devine be seated as congresswoman from the 4th District of Mississippi instead of Prentiss Walker.

3. The time has past for fear to keep us acting as the white man's "boy" and we now protest the burning of our churches, the second-rate educations our children are getting, and all the other evils of Mississippi's system of segregation. We want our FREEDOM NOW.

JOIN US ON FRIDAY MORNING May 28th. We will march from the Goshen-Fannin school on highway 471 to the Courthouse in Brandon. For details of the march attend the following meetings:

Monday May 17 Lee's Chapel in Sandhill at 7:30p.m.

Thursday May 20 at Mt. Pisgah hurchground at 7:30 p.m.

Sunday May 23 at Long Pine church between Sandhill and Ludlow at 7:30 p.m.

GIANT RALLY on Thursday May 27 at Mt. Pisgah Churchgrounds at 7:30 p.m.

We will Never Turn Back never!

Proj 1.6

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George Raymond to Ed Hollander

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plan to march twenty miles from a commuhity in their Beat to the county courthouse in Brandon to present a petition asking for a federal registrar in each beat in the county; the elimination of questions 18, 19, 20 on the voter registration tests; the seating of MFDP'S congress-women and an end to intimidation and acts of violence directed at people working in the movement.

Negroes from all over Rankin County are joining the people of Beat Three to participate in this March and they hope that MFDP members and COFO workers from all over the state will be able to join them also. For further information on the march contact:

Rankin County COFO
Rt. 3 Box 116
Brandon, Miss.

or

Canton COFO
838 Lutz
Canton, Miss.
859-9944

RANKIN COUNTY

Jan. 4...A group of 17 adults and 10 students were turned away from the Brandon Courthouse. They went to Taylorsville church upon leaving all were checked at a roadblock. That evening four of the local men were arrested and taken to jail. One was released for he hadn't been on the Freedom Day. They were charged with public drunkeness and selling whisky; two CORE workers and the four men claim this wasn't true. A deputy told one of the men, "You came to see us today. We've come to see you tonight."

Jan. 15...Local man driving CORO worker SEARS Buckly was arrested and jailed for running a non-existent stop sign. ($69). Sears was ordered out of the car and forced to run in front of the Deputy's car about ½ mile then left to walk home.

Jan. 21 The Negro Church in Taylorsville was burned to the Ground.

During February: The workers and local people were followed after going to various churches, had roadblocks after their Thursday night mass meetings.

April 12...Mt. Pisgah Baptist Church (where the mass meetings were held) was burned down. Six people ha d successfully registered to vote that day and the days prior to the burning.

April 13...A shot was fired at the home where the Rankin staff lived.

May 4...CORE worker Martha Wrtight was arrested for illegal parking (not guilty) She spent 3 days in jail.

May 16...While driving canvassers for the March, Martha was arrested and jailed for not having brake lights. The police took the vehicle leaving two CORE workers and three local students stranded in Brandon. Whites were gathering and circling the block where there are some Negro businesses. The Negroes were getting away as fast as they could and would not carry any of the canvassers out of town. George Raymond, project director, had been canvassing in Brandon and joined the group. They decided to walk toward home. As they walked up the street a city police car drove up to them. The men in the car told the canvassers to get out of town fast and cursed at George and brandished a black jack.

May 17...Martha was fined $50 and released. The truck cost another $31. The police had taken it to Pearl about 12 miles away, they said, to prevent it being burned.

[1965, May]

An Effort to Develop Community Organization Through Self-Education.

In Mississippi Negro communities there is for the first time a real freedom to organize around any issue of interest to the community. One large difficulty in trying to organize is the community's lack of information about how the present governmental structures work. The Negro community has only minimum, if any, knowledge about welfare, public health, school boards, tax collection and dispersal, county and state government, and the multitude of other power structures.

These two booklets are first attempts at making this sort of information available to a largely rural population with little formal schooling.

These booklets are designed to:

(1) Help people think about solutions to problems in an analytical way;

(2) Lead to direct experience with research material; &

(3) Show how action can follow from thought and research.

These are, we hope, only the first of many such booklets. Among other projected booklets are Roads, Local & State Government, Taxes, Welfare, Farm Problems, & Economic Future.

It is hoped that these booklets will lead the community to organize itself around these issues. Groups will form around various aspects of a particular problem, some engaging in research, some in planning, others in implementation.

Through these means the Negro community will find ways of articulating and answering its needs.

SCHOOL

WORKSHOP

BOOKLET

(First Draft)

May, 1965

In Mississippi parents and citizens are concerned about the conditions of the schools and the problems they are facing in the Mississippi school system.

What problems in your school are you concerned about?

Up to now Negroes in Mississippi have had no voice on how the schools are being run, but Negroes are no longer satisfied. This booklet has been prepared to provide information on how the school system is run by the state and county. It suggests how, as Negro parents and citizens, you can change the situation.

This booklet will help to point up some of the things that are wrong with the school system and how they can be changed. The booklet will help to tell who is responsible for the condition of the school system, how they got their position, and the power they have.

Hopefully, after parents and citizens have read and worked with this booklet, they will form committees to look into the basic problems and then begin to change Mississippi school system.

Before change can happen, people have to talk. But change will never happen if they only talk. One way to make talk lead to action is by asking questions and then going out to find the answers. What questions can we ask about schools? We can turn every school problem listed on page 1 into a question about who is responsible.

Who buys books?

Who decides on teacher qualifications?

Who decides on teachers' pay?

Now we have some specific questions to try to answer.
Let's talk for a while and try to answer some of the questions.

To find out the answers to these questions we need to talk about the structure of the school system. We need to discuss the different [illegible]ple that are running the schools now.

The County School Board and the State Department of Education are responsible for almost everything that has to do with schools.

County School Board (also called the County Board of Education) The county school board consists of five members, one of whom is elected from each beat. The members hold office for six years with staggered terms. Members receive $10 a day for service not to exceed 60 days in any one year. The Board has jurisdiction over all schools in the county except the separate districts.

Duties of the County School Board are:

1. Create, alter or abolish school districts of the county
2. Determine school transportation routes of the county.
3. Establish policies for operating school transportation system of the county
4. Approving contracts for superintendents, principals and teachers
5. Distributing minimum education program funds provided for the support and operation of the county school system
6. Approving requests for student transfers
7. Acting as the central purchasing agency for supplies, materials, and other articles for those school districts in the school system requesting the same.
8. Fixing the date for opening of the school term of all schools in the county school system

State Department of Education (Including State Board of Education) This department adopts the course of study to be used in the public schools of the state. It establishes rules and regulations for the purchase of county owned transportation equipment and for the operation of a school transportation system. It allocates and disperses state funds for the current operation of the schools.

The department is organized into six divisions with a director for each division. These divisions include:

1. Division of Administration and Finance
2. Division of Instruction
3. Division of School Building Service and Transportation

In addition, there are three less important divisions dealing with special services.

County Superintendent of Education

The superintendent is a full-time employee of the County Board of Education. He carries out the policies of the County Board and of the State Department of Education.

It shall be the duty of the county superintendent:

1. to sign contracts in a manner provided by law with each superintendent, principal, and teacher of the public schools under his supervision.

2. to enforce the course of study adopted by the Board of Education, and the uniform textbooks adopted by the county.

3. to carefully preserve all reports of school officers and teachers.

4. to issue pay certificates to teachers and to issue pay certificates for school funds of the county.

5. to keep in his office and carefully preserve the public school records provided.

6. to visit the schools and require teachers to perform all their duties.

7. to distribute promptly all reports, laws, forms and instructions which he may receive from the State Department of Education.

With this information let us return to our questions on Page 2 and try to answer them.

For example, on Page 2 we asked: Who buys books? Let us turn back to Page 3. Under the State Department of Education we read: "This department adopts the course of study to be used in the public schools of this state." Then we notice that one of the divisions of the State Department of Education is the Division of Instruction. Above that, under the County School Board, we see under No. 7 that the Board acts as a purchasing agency. Then on Page 4 we read under No. 4 that the county superintendent issues pay certificates for school funds of the county.

The second question on Page 2 was: Who decides on teacher qualifications? Let us turn back to Page 3. The Division of Administration and Finance of the State Department of Education decides on teacher qualifications for the state. Under the County Board we see that, according to No. 4, the County Board approves contracts for teachers. In practice, the county superintendent knows what is needed and decides on qualifications for the local schools.

The third question on Page 2 was: Who decides on teachers' pay? Can you answer this yourself by looking back at pages 3 and 4?

Let's take some of the other questions on Page 2 and try to answer them.

Let's list some of the questions we haven't yet been able to answer.

The answers to all these questions can't be found on Page 3, but they can be found in the books from which the information on Page 3 was taken. These books are:

Mississippi Code 1942, Annotated. Recompiled Volume Five--1952, Published by The Harrison Company, Atlanta, Georgia.

Financing Mississippi Public Schools, Revised, July, 1964. Published by the Division of Administration & Finance, State Department of Education, Jackson, Mississippi.

The information on the County Superintendent of Education was copied directly from the Mississippi Code. The other information was taken from Financing Mississippi Public Schools. Let's talk for a while about these books.

In order to find out the answers to some of the questions we couldn't answer let's set up a committee to work on finding some of the answers.

The committee to look into this is:

This committee will meet:

We've talked about the county superintendent. In your county or community who is your superintendent?

How was he elected or chosen? When was he chosen? What are his qualifications? What is his salary?

Who is on your County Board of Education? How was it chosen? When was it chosen? What qualifications do they have?

Where is the State Department of Education located? How many people work there? What are their qualifications?

We'll need a committee to answer these questions.

The Committee will be:

This committee will meet:

Perhaps as this committee answers the questions above they will also discover other related questions, hopefully be able to answer these too.

When your committees find information, what will you use it for?

Should you start working for change in just the schools your children attend? Are there reasons for wanting to change all the schools in Mississippi?

Can we work on Negro schools and all the schools at the same time? The best way to decide is probably to list what we could do about each. And then choose what we want to do.

HOW TO IMPROVE PRESENT SCHOOLS

1. Take part in meetings with teachers.
2. Invite School Board members to our meetings.
3. Let principals and teachers know we're not satisfied with them.
4. Become registered voters and elect school board members.
5. Visit State Department of Education in Jackson.

HOW TO CHANGE WHOLE SYSTEM

1. File court suits against separate schools for Negro and white.
2. Try to talk with any white citizens who might share some of our worries. (A group of white people, Mississippians for Public Education might talk to us.)
3. Find out about school integration in other states.
4. Read and study about how to prepare both Negroes and white people for integration.

The last question to ask is "What will you really do?" Which of the above ideas will you start with? And how will you carry them out?

Your answer will help decide the future of your children, and of Mississippi.

YOUR ANSWER:

[1965, Aug 14]

YOUNG DEMOCRATIC CLUBS OF MISSISSIPPI

STATE CONVENTION

HOTEL HEIDELBERG = JACKSON MISS.

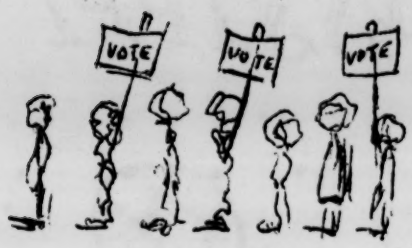
SATURDAY AUGUST 14 9 A.M.

ALL LOYAL NATIONAL DEMOCRATS BETWEEN 16 AND 40 ARE WELCOME TO PARTICIPATE. (OLDER PEOPLE MAY OBSERVE)

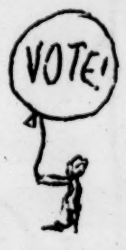
COME AND VOTE FOR OUR

- ★ STATE CONSTITUTION
- ★ STATE OFFICERS
- ★ DELEGATES TO THE YOUNG DEMOCRATIC CLUBS OF AMERICA NATIONAL CONVENTION - OCT. 12-16 NEW YORK CITY.

COME TO THE CONVENTION!



JACKSON AUGUST 14



BRING YOUR FRIENDS!

COME — YOUNG DEMOCRATIC CLUBS OF MISSISSIPPI
STATE CONVENTION
Saturday, August 14, 9a.m.

TO — HOTEL HEIDELBERG, JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI
131 E. Capitol St.

VOTE — FOR: STATE CONSTITUTION
STATE OFFICERS
NATIONAL CONVENTION DELEGATES

YOUNG DEMOCRATIC CLUBS OF MISSISSIPPI
Post Office Box 2251
Jackson, Mississippi 39205

Blk. Rt.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Jackson, Miss.
Permit No. 177

CORE
1838 Felicity
New Orleans, La

THE MISSISSIPPI DEMOCRATIC CONFERENCE IS A FRAUD

A SPECIAL REPORT PUBLISHED BY THE COUNCIL OF FEDERATED ORGANIZATIONS

by THE COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT

The COUNCIL OF FEDERATED ORGANIZATIONS stands for racial equality, political democracy and economic justice in Mississippi. The Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party stands for loyalty to the platform and principles of the National Democratic Party and is open to all adult residents of the state of Mississippi regardless of race, color, or creed. The Mississippi Democratic Conference is a fraud because it first refuses to join the already existing political organization loyal to the national Democratic goals and secondly because the new group is undemocratic in its organization. What I means by democracy is that a group and persons should be honest - therefore the Mississippi Democratic Conference should call itself the political arm of the Mississippi AFL-CIO and NAACP; elections should be by voting and not by aclamation as were those of the Conference; elections should present choices, instead of the single nominees of the Conference (reminiscent of tyranny); integration should be real, instead of the obviously planned game of having one white nominate, then one Negro, of having one Negro elected and then one white; meetings should be open to all the public or to those meeting some resonable test - such as willingness to sign their actual names to a statement of loyalty to the national Democratic Party - and not closed to all who were known to have views independant from the AFL-CIO and NAACP; and lastly, leaders should not lie about the group but openly stand for what they are doing or change their actions.

The JACKSON DAILY NEWS of July 19 has some additional points in it worth quoting here: "Charles Evers, state NAACP secretary, seconded Oswald's nomination. Evers attended along with state NAACP President Aaron Henry of Clarksdale....Don Ellinger of Washington, a staffer of the Democratic National Committee, promised help from the national party....The Rev. R. L. T. Smith of Jackson, a Negro, was elected tresurer. Smith is a Baptist minister, a supermarket owner and local NAACP leader." I find it distressing that the National Democratic Party should take the stand of supporting this AFL-CIO NAACP group just at the time of the Freedom Democratic Party Congressional Challenge. Possibly President Johnson's nomination of former Mississippi governor Coleman at this same time reveals just what the thinking is of the national party. I guess that one never gets credit for ones work nor appreciation for loyalty - because no group has demonstrated more loyalty to both the national Democratic Party and to this county than the Negroes in the FDP who have been shot at, killed, arrested, beaten, jailed, harassed, tortured, etc., just to bring about the day when they could vote for things like Medicare, Aid to Education, and more civil rights bills. Why, why, why is the national party turning its back now on the people who have worked so hard for it. The only conclusion I can reach is that other forces are at work than what appear at the surface. Just as it was reported that a delegate at the Denver national convention of the NAACP asked if there had been a deal to cause Roy Wilkins to support Coleman's nomination, I ask now, WHAT DEALS HAVE BEEN MADE so that now the FDP is to be killed? Or possibly no special deal has been made. Possibly there are just the normal workings of the economic and social forces of this country which has supporting centuries of racism, which today is the single biggest support to the racist regime of South Africa, which still has fantastic unemployment, which has a poverty program strenthening the status quo in all too many areas, which talks of FREEDOM but which only ends up supporting "FREE ENTERPRIZE". I remember Rev. Jim Lawson saying that he wondered if voter registration was really a good project for civil rights workers afterall. He wondered if the people who would benefit would be the people - the poor whites and Negroes - or whether it would be the bosses.

* * * * * * * * *

The Democratic National Committee has a Committee Against Discrimination - thanks to FDP - whose purpose is to aid states to meet the requirement that all voters can participate fully in Democratic Party affairs. AND YET THE NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY SUPPORTS THIS MISSISSIPPI DEMOCRATIC CONFERENCE WHICH EXCLUDED THE VERY PEOPLE WHO HAD WON THE NON-EXCLUDING RULE. Let's write the Committee members and tell them what we think: write them at 1730 K St., N.W., Washington, D.C. They are: Chairman, David L. Lawrence, Mrs. Helen Gunsett (Ohio), Edgar A. Brown (S.C.), Mrs. Mildred Jeffrey (Mich.), Eugene L. Wyman (Calif), Stephen McNichols (Col), Mrs. Eugene M. Locke (Tex), Mrs. Mary E. Fantasia (Mass), Rev. E. Franklin Jackson (Wash, D.C.), John M. Bailey, Mrs. Margaret Price, Richard Maguire, Mrs. Dorothy Vredenburgh Bush, William L. Dawson, Robert Wagner, Edmund G. Brown, Mike Mansfield, Hale Boggs, Counsel Harold Leventhal and Associate Counsel Joe Rauh.

This MISSISSIPPI DEMOCRATIC CONFERENCE is extremely important for another reason. It The CONFERENCE will run and be able to take political advantage of the new federal programs which are pouring into Mississippi. We, the people who have done the work and built the pressures for these advances, we are being shoved aside. For example, the now $7 million literacy program has Claude Ramsay and Rev. R. L. T. Smith on the Board of Directors with the Catholic Church to run it. In the other, more familiar Operation Headstart program, the group which has helped us most, Child Development Group, is under great pressure to restrict itself, while a new group Aaron Henry is connectdd with is getting $3 million. The AFL-CIO/NAACP front (THE DEMOCRATIC CONFERENCE) is not trying to take over the Negro and poor white politics for nothing. No, its for money and power. Our "friends" and enemies seem quite similar.

* LET THE PEOPLE DECIDE *

THE MISSISSIPPI DEMOCRATIC CONFERENCE - NAKED GRAB FOR POWER - ATTEMPT TO KILL FDP

STATE LABOR COUNCIL, NAACP; NEGROES, WHITES ORGANIZE NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC GROUP by John Hall, Associated Press Writer

Negroes and whites Sunday launched the Mississippi Democratic Conference, a statewide group to support the national Democratic Party. About 125 persons attended the convention at a Jackson hotel. The Mississippi Labor Council (AFL-CIO) and the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People led the move. The attempt has been condemned by political leaders of other civil rights groups. Robert Oswald, a Pascagoula attorney, was elected chairman by acclamation, as was vice chairman Charles Young, a wealthy Meridian Negro businessman. Two Mississippi Democratic electors in the 1964 Presidential election, Alonzo Westbrookof Jackson and Wade Lagrone of Tupelo, both white, took part. Westbrook nimonated Oswald, who was accepted by acclamation, as were all other officers, alternately Negro and white. Hddding Carter III of Greenville, editor of the Delta Democrat-Times, nominated Charles Young. James Carter, a Negro businessman from Greenville, seconded the nominatinn. William Ready, a white attorney from Meridian was chosen as secretary. Levi Chappell, a Greenville Negro who operates a cosmetics supply business, was named assistant secretary. Elected treasurer was R. L. T. Smith.... Professor Flavous Hutchinson of Mississippi State University was elected parliamentarian... Attending were Claude Ramsay of Jackson, president of the Mississippi Labor Council, a number of lessor state labor officials, NAACP State Secretary Charles Evers, and State NAACP President Aaron Henry....Conspicious by their absence were Negroes and whites connected with the Freedom Democratic Party and the Student Nonviolent coordinating Committee who have been struggling with the NAACP-labor group for control of the Young Democratic organization's charter." THE CLARION-LEDGER, July 19, 1965, page one.

* * *

CONSPICIOUS BY OUR ABSENCE? REALLY?

NO! THAT IS A LIE. THE TRUTH IS THAT THE MISSISSIPPI DEMOCRATIC CONFERENCE EXCLUDED AND PREVENTED FROM PARTICIPATING ALL THOSE PEOPLE IT KNEW TO BE MILITANTLY FOR CIVIL RIGHTS, ALL THOSE PEOPLE WHO HAVE AND WHO STILL ACTIVELY SUPPORT THE FREEDOM DEMOCRATIC PARTY, SNCC, COFO, ETC. Here is the proof. COFO has learned that since January Mississippi Democratic Conference big shots have met with national Democratic Party officials and "responsible Mississippians" around the state setting up the organization. The strategy was to use fromt groups and have attendance be "by invitation only" so that FDP and COFO could be excluded. The fact that COFO, FDP and other civil rights supporters are the ones responsible for the Voting Bill and the new climate which makes such meetings possible in the first place, seems not to matter to these opportunists of the NAACP and AFL-CIO who see this as their chance for taking power - for taking over the political leadership now that the civil rights movement has gotten political power into Negroes hands. As one example of direct exclusion, a front group meeting of the Mississippi Democratic conference was held Sunday, May 23 in Meridian. The front group was the LAUDERDALE COUNTY DEMOCRATIC CLUB, Mr. Charles Young, Chairman. Mrs. Crowell and Mr. George Smith, both local registered voters, were kicked out with the words "no FDP or COFO people are allowed." Mr. Young himself refused to let Hunber Morey in, who is a registered Mississippi voter, is Chairman of the Convention Committee of the Young Democratic Clubs of Mississippi - all because Mr. Morey also works for SNCC and is a member of FDP. The meeting hardly was a meeting of the Lauderdate County Democratic Club, since all the Mississippi Democratic Conference leaders were there (Robert Oswald, AFL-CIO's Claude Ramsay, NAACP's Charles Evers, etc.) and they passed out the Constitution of the Mississippi Democratic Conference. If that is not sufficient proof, the Jackson meeting held Sunday, July 18, was also a closed meeting. The meeting was "by invitation only" as stated in the letters inviting whites, dated July 1st sent out by Ramsay on AFL-CIO stationary, and to Negroes dated July 13th sent out by Young on Lauderdale County Democratic Club stationary. Again Mr. Morey was told that he could not attend. Mr. Oswald stated the refusal to Morey and Ramsay also did, indicating that Mr. Evers of the NAACP would not approve of Morey. (Mr. Morey told COFO that Mr. Young claimed not to know where and when the big Mississippi Democratic Conference meeting was to be when Morey called him just a few days before it.)

* * *

WHY DOES THE MISSISSIPPI DEMOCRATIC CONFERENCE WANT TO KILL FDP?

Power. That's it. Simply POWER. The state NAACP has failed to come up with any significant leadership or program since Medgar Evers was killed. Under his gym teacher brother, NAACP's influence has declined. The NAACP desparately needs to prove that it is needed at all. That job is difficult when there is such a dynamic FDP, etc. So, to survive, the NAACP wants to get some of this political power which the voting bill is about to release. When a Negro wants to get power, there are two classic ways to go about it. One, is to join with his neighbors and those whites who agree with full equality and promote a Movement for freedom. The other is to do what white people, the "power structure" want. A classic term for the second tactic is "Uncle Tomming". This is what the NAACP and Charles Evers have decided to do. At the same time, there is a white group in Mississippi which wants power also, that is the AFL-CIO - labor. Now unions also have two historic ways of getting power. Working people have traditionally been on the bottom of the heap in the world, and so unions are supposed to be working people's organizations to help make things better. One way to get power is to unite with all the other working and ppor people, and force the power structure to deal with you, force the rich people to give more of the money to everybody - or go on strike if the big shots won't agree.

(CONTINUATION OF WHY DOES THE MISSISSIPPI DEMOCRATIC CONFERENCE WANT TO KILL FDP?)

Looking at things this way, one might expect that the white leaders of the AFL-CIO would join forces with the Freedom Labor Union to bring Mississippi out of the serfdom that plagues the Negro and poor white community. However, there is also a second way many (if not most) unions have chosen to get power. This is the way of making deals and "coilitinns" with those people of status or position so that the unions can get some power by acting like the power structure or joining with it. This second course is what the AFL-CIO is doing. (One might note that the national AFL-CIO didn't even support the March On Washington and now doesn't support the Congressional Challenge - even though the conservative NAACP nationally was forced into it - I guess a group that supposedly represents Negroes has to back things that average Negroes want once in a while or the NAACP would be all white, instead of being just controlled by whites as it is now) The AFL-CIO provide no help for workers on strike in the delta, instead they call them communist. And they unite with the rich and big shot Negroes politically so that they can try to control the Negro vote from the top down.

NO NEED FOR ANOTHER FDP

Why are the AFL-CIO and NAACP organizing a group to be loyal to the national Democratic ideals when there already is the FDP? It must mean that they do not like the FDP and want to kill its influence in the state (and nationally). After all, FDP has so far won the ruling that no state Democratic Party can be segregated, has challenged the Mississippi Regular Democrats at the national Convention and is now chalenging the five Mississippi Congressmen. FDP has gotten too much, too fast and the AFL-CIO and NAACP want to get in on the act. They know that the racists are dying and that they Mississippi Regular Democratic Party is on its last leg. They just don't want to see such an independant, Negro led group get anywhere. THEY want to have power, they do not want THE PEOPLE to have power to run things themselves and to make decisonns themselves. After all, if those NAACP Negroes and AFL-CIO whites were sincere, why don't they join the FDP? It is open to all. It put on a big campaign for the national Democratic Party ticket last November. It has passed the 1964 Platform of the national Democratic Party. The mere fact that the NAACP and AFL-CIO haven't joined the FDP shows them up, even if they have not excluded us from their group.

* * *

THE MISSISSIPPI DEMOCRATIC CONFERENCE - UNCLE TOM / WHITE OPPORTUNIST ALLIANCE.

The Mississippi Democratic Conference is the latest trick the racist power structure has to hold back progress in Mississippi. However, they have new lackyies to help them preserve the status quo. These lackies do not believe in democratic principles, but rather in running things by BIG SHOTS. Just look at how they set up their Mississippi Democratic Conference. They did not have precinct meetings, county convontions, district conventions, and a state convention. No. They had secret closed meetings to set up a select bunch of stooges to do the bidding of the AFL-CIO and NAACP. The natinnal Democratic Party which tried its best to kill FDP at A lantic City now has a group within Mississippi which will act as their henchmen. Charles Evers of the NAACP has shown his being a "good little boy" many times. For example, he backed the nomination of former Mississippi Governor J. P. Coleman - according to the July 12th Newsweek Magazine. Evers also went up to Kansas City as COFO NEWS has earlier reported on and opposed the granting of a charter to a Mississippi group of mostly Negroes who had organized independly of any group, but loyal to the national Democratic ideals. Evers and the NAACP have fought COFO every time they could. (One interesting way was to plagerize or copy the COFO Summer Project 1964 pamphlet and put it out as a NAACP fund raising device) The Greenwood NAACP (organized by SNCC to show good will) invitdd Mrs. Fannie Lou Hamer up for a campaign fund raising event in her Freedom Voto campaign, but have not yet given her the $250 they raised. The NAACP in McComb has red=baited COFO and SNCC and in Clarksdale, the NAACP once came into the COFO office (run by SNCC) and put up NAACP signs and took loads of pictures to make it look like NAACP was doing something in President Aaron Henry's hometown. Roy Wilkins, national Secretary, has attacked SNCC, COFO, Freedom Schools, FDP, demonstrations, etc. The AFL-CIO has never helped the Movement, but now that we've opened the door, the AFL-CIO suddenly appear as GREAT LIBERALS.

*

Estremely sophisticated is the Constitution of the Mississippi Democratic Conference. It was passed along with the following resolution: WHEREAS, the persons assembled at the Heidelberg Hotel in Jackson, Mississippi, on July 18, 1965, recognize a need for a state-wide organization for the purpose of bringing together electors interested in advancing the principles and goals of the National Democratic Party; and WHEREAS, to effect such goals it is necessary to create a temporary organization authorized to take appropriate action for the purpose of establishing such a permanent organization; and WHEREAS, a proposed Constitution and By-Laws for the permanent organization have been prepared and presented to the group assembled as an exhibit to this resolutioin, and said instruments should be conformed to by the temporary organization to the extent feasible. NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the group here assembled hereby adopts the name of the Mississippi Democratic Conference; adopts as a guide only, the Constitution and By-Laws attached hereto; shall proceed to forthwith elect the officers designated in the aforementioned Constitution and By-Laws and authorize such officers to take each and every step necessary or incidental to carry out the purposes of this resolution, to obtain a state charter of incorporation and to provide for the calling of the first annual meeting of the permanent organization at the earliest reasonable time.

WE WONDER WHEN THE PUBLIC WILL BE ABLE TO PARTICIPATE OR WILL THE AFL-CIO NAACP ALWAYS ABSOLUTELY CONTROL IT?

THE MISSISSIPPI DEMOCRATIC CONFERENCE IS A FRAUD AND SHOULD NOT BE GRANTED A CHARTER BY THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI NOR SHOULD ANY DECENT, RESPECTIBLE CITIZENS JOIN IT. THE SO-CALLED MISSISSIPPI DEMOCRATIC CONFERENCE IS NOTHING BUT A FRONT GROUP OF THE AFL-CIO and the NAACP. Claude Ramsay and Charles Evers are trying to pull a fast one over on white and Negro Mississippians. These two heads of the AFL-CIO/NAACP want people to think that they can support the national Democratic Party through this new group. This is not the case. This group merely exists to bolster the personal and organizational interests of the AFL-CIO/NAACP, Claude Ramsay/ Charles Evers. If these men and groups were sincere, why would they deliberately keep out people who are obviously loyal Democrats. Why keep out people who have risked much to get people registered to vote. After all, it was SNCC in 1961 which started the big current voter registration drive not only for Mississippi but for the deep south which finally resultdd in the 1965 Civil Rights Voting Bill. Why exclude SNCC from participating in the use of this vote? After all, it was COFO which put on the biggest voter registration drive Mississippi has ever seen. After all it is COFO which mentioned most ofter in the United States Commission on Civil Rights report VOTING IN MISSISSIPPI and HEARINGS HELD IN JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI February 16-20, 1965. It is COFO that has gone into the rural counties and gotten people to see that they had rights to register to vote. It is COFO and SNCC and FDP who have been with the people who have gone up to the courthouses when it was not as easy as now. The NAACP had a summor project only AFTER COFO had opened up the State of Mississippi, only AFTER COFO's work had gotten the FBI to open up an office in Jackson, only after the militant SNCC and COFO work which along with SCLC got the Voting Bill in the works. The NAACP is a Johnny come lately who now wants to fool people into coming in under its leadership. WHY DID NOT THE NAACP and AFL-CIO organize something two or three years ago. WHY DON"T THEY NOW JOIN WITH THE FDP WHICH IS OPEN, WHICH WILL ALLOW ALL LOYAL DEMOCRATS TO PARTICIPATE, WHICH HAS OPEN MEETINGS, WHICH HAS BONA FIDE ELECTIONS WITH OPPOSITION, INSTEAD OF THE MISSISSIPPI DEMOCRATIC CONFERENCE STYLE OF "ACLAMATION" with no opposition.

* * *

HERE IS THE PURPOSE OF THE MISSISSIPPI DEMOCRATIC CONFERENCE AS IN THEIR CONSTITUTION, ARTICLE II

The purpose of this organization shall be to bring together in one organization, through duly elected representative, members of county Democratic organizations within the state, to stimulate and facilitate the organization of such groups where none exists, and to advocate and advance the principles and goals of the National Democratic Party within the State of Mississippi.

WHAT IS THIS? IS THIS THE REGULAR MISSISSIPPI DEMOCRATIC PARTY? NO, IT SAYS "NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC" AND THAT RULES OUT THE STATE RACIST REGULARS. IS IT THE MISSISSIPPI FREEDOM DEMOCRATIC PARTY? NO. IT NEVER MENTIONS FDP AND THE RESOLUTION PASSED SAYS THE AFL-CIO/NAACP GROUP WHICH PASSED IT "RECOGNIZE A NEED FOR A STATE WIDE ORGANIZATION". THEREFORE IT MUST BE A NEW GROUP. What kind of group? A third party?

* * *

IS THE MISSISSIPPI DEMOCRATIC CONFERENCE A THIRD PARTY? WE DEMAND AN ANSWER. WHAT ELSE COULD IT BE?

We Mississippians wish to know it right now. Is the so-called Mississippi Democratic Conference a third party? If not what is it. There already exists a state Democratic Party which is recognized by the National Democratic Party as the official Democratic Party in Mississippi. The state party is not actually loyal, but instead is racist and close to facist, if not already there. There is a loyalist Democratic group already in existence - the Freedom Democratic Party. In fact, the 1964 Democratic National Convention recognized this group to the extent of giving them two seats at their convention. THEREFORE, IF THE AFL-CIO and NAACP are sincere, WHY DON"T THEY JOIN THE FDP?

WHY DON"T THE AFL-CIO/NAACP JOIN THE FDP?

Why don't the AFL-CIO/NAACP team join FDP? We think we know. We think it is because they wish to trick Mississippians into thinking that their fromt group, the so-called Mississippi Democratic Conference, is THE WAY: is THE ONLY WAY into participating in national politics instead of racism. IN OTHER WORDS, THE AFL-CIO/NAACP WANT THE POWER OF CONTROLLING THE NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY POLITICS IN MISSISSIPPI. THE AFL_CIO and NAACP therefore don't join FDP because they are making a naked power grab.

* * *

JACKSON DAILY NEWS (July 19, page 7) CONFIRMS FACT OF EXCLUSION AND CONTROL BY AFL-CIO/NAACP.

"Attendance was by invitation only, and no bids went to 'never, never' segregationists or to hard-line integration groups - the Freedom Democratic Party, the Student Non-violent Coordinating Committee, and Council of Federated Organizations. Charles Young, a wealthy Meridian Negro businessman, and Claude Ramsay, white president of the state AFL-CIO were cochairman. Whites and Negroes were elected alternately to six offices by acclmation, and whites and Negroes took turns nominating and seconding officers." WOW! WHAT A PUT UP JOB. IT ALL WORKS LIKE A CLOCK, WITH JUST AS MUCH FREEDOM AND GRASS-ROOTS DEMOCRACY. We hope Mississippians both black and white will not fall for this undemocratic AFL-CIO and NAACP front group parading as the Mississippi Democratic Conference. WHY NOT COME OUT IN THE OPEN AS THE MISSISSIPPI AFL-CIO and NAACP political arm. WHY DO THESE PEOPLE FEEL THEY MUST HAVE A FRONT GROUP AND HIDE THE TRUTH?

MAYBE IT IS BECAUSE THEY DON"T WANT THE TRUTH OUT. MAYBE THEY ARE UP TO NO GOOD.

[1965]

A PROSPECTUS FOR THE SUMMER -- MISSISSIPPI

A program is being planned for this summer in Mississippi which will involve the massive participation of Americans dedicated to the elimination of racial oppression. Scores of students, teachers, professors, ministers, technicians, artists and legal advisors are now being recruited from all over the country to work in Mississippi. Within the state intensive preparation are underway to develop programs which will put to creative use the talents and energies of the hundreds of expected volunteers. These programs can be divided generally into four main areas: freedom schools, community centers, voter registration and special projects.

Freedom Schools: Plans call for roughly ten day Freedom Schools and two or three away-from home schools. The day Freedom Schools will for the most part draw 10th, 11th and 12th grade students from the locale. Each school will have a high student-teacher ratio so that instruction can be as individual as possible. Curriculum for these schools will cover a wide area: remedial work in reading, math and basic grammar; seminars in political science and the humanities, journalism and creative writing; recreational programs such as dramatics, music appreciation, arts and crafts, athletics, movies; and voter registration field work. Whenever possible, studies will be related to the society in which the students live.

Community Centers: The Community Centers program projects a network of educational and recreational centers across the State. Conceived as a long-range project, the Centers will provide a variety of programs geared to serve the basic needs of the Negro communities presently ignored by the State's racist political structure. In addition, a dynamic focus for the development of community organization will be formed. The educational features of the Centers will include job training programs for the unskilled and unemployed, literacy and remedial programs for adults and young people, public health program such as prenatal and infant care and nutrition. Centers will also provide adult education workshops on such topics as family relations, federal service programs and home improvement. Extracurricular programs for grade and high school students, which will supplement educational deficiencies as well as provide opportunity for critical thought and creative expression are to be offered. Each center will provide a well-rounded library to which Negroes in many communities have no access at the present time.

Though the Community Center program is primarily educational, some of each Center's resources will be used to provide much needed recreational facilities for the Negro community. The film program of the centers will provide an agreeable atmosphere for movies, and will offer films or serious content, rarely shown in Mississippi. Other recreational programs will be music appreciation, arts and crafts, drama groups, discussion sessions on current events, literature, Negro history and achievement.

Voter Registration. Workers will mobilize the Negro communities and assist in developing local leadership and organization. They will be involved in an effort to encourage as many Negroes as possible to attempt to register on the county books and will assist in a campaign, launched in February, to register over 400,000 Negroes on Freedom Registration books. The Freedom Registration campaign will involve establishing local registrars in every precinct in Mississippi with registration books resembling as much as possible the books of the state. The Freedom Registration books will serve as the basis for challenging the official books of the state and the validity of "official" elections this fall. Finally, voter registration workers will assist in the summer campaign of Freedom candidates who will be running for Congress

Special Projects: A research project, in which workers will devote themselves to research on the political and economic life of Mississippi; a legal project for lawyers and law students to do research and assist in legal suits, and the white community project, using Southern whites to organize in the white communities where there is poverty and illiteracy and a need for organized strength.

'64

[1965]

MATERIALS NEEDED FOR MISSISSIPPI SUMMER PROJECT

I. Major Equipment
1. Typewriters -- preferably in good condition
2. Duplicating machines
   Rexograph
   Mimeograph
   Ditto
   Photocopy types

Note: send the stencils, paper, ink, fluid, etc. that each kind of of machine requires as well as the machine, please.

3. Tape recorders. Also recording tapes.
4. Phonographs. Also records.
5. Tele-trainers (N.Y. Bell Telephone Co.)
6. Film projectors. Screens. Films.
7. Strip projectors. Film strips.
8. Blackboards. Chalk. Erasers.
9. Bulletin boards.

II. Supplies.
1. Paper -- lined, unlined, poster, oak tag, graph paper, construction paper, rolls of newsprint (unused ends can be procured from newspaper companies), tracing paper, paper for various duplicating machines, second sheets,etc.
2. manilla folders and envelopes
3. pencils, crayons, ball point pens, magic markers (all colors, but especially red, black and blue), paints.
4. scissors, scotch tape, masking tape, paste, thumb tacks, paper clips, pencil erasers, chalk, chalk erasers, mimeo correction fluid.
5. Stapling machines, staples, staple removers, pencil sharpeners.
6. Stencils, mastercopies, ink, etc. for various duplicators.

III. Printed materials.
1. Magazines: Life, Ebony, Jet, National Geographic, American Heritage, etc.
2. Classic comics (Company must be contacted for donations)
3. Workbooks--all subjects, and all levels.
4. Maps--wall and desk size
5. Prints of artistic works.
6. Official forms, such as social security, job applications, mail order, etc.
7. Reference works--dictionaries, encyclopedias, etc.
8. "News for You"--published on three levels (Box 131, Syracuse, N.Y. 13210)
9. Books--fiction
10. Books--specific titles. See book list.

[1965]

PRELIMINARY PROPOSAL FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF
OF MISSISSIPPI FREEDOM CORPS

At the present time in Mississippi, the need of the civil rights movement for long term trained volunteers is matched by an army of young people who want to help. There are many young people in Mississippi on the fringe of the movement. Some of them are school "drop-outs"; some are unemployed High School graduates; some are attached in a loose and occasional way to some aspect of the program.

From outside Mississippi come many volunteers ready to identify with the struggle. A good number of these are top quality young people ready to give long term service. There is growing evidence that their number will increase.

Considering then, the potential manpower available and the absence of any structural setup to develop it for long term use, the following proposal is made.

CONTENTS

The basic idea is to recruit, train, and establish an elite corps of young men and women, most but not all of whom initially will be Negro and from Mississippi.

The basic training will take place at Mt. Beulah, The Delta Ministry academy, or a like place for a period of a few months, and consist of intensive work and study in developing leadership skills in such fields as

--literacy
--civil rights action
--community centers
--freedom schools
--first aid and basic health education
--voter registration
--community organizing and development.

Corps members will wear some identifying insignia, or dress, and reflect a discipline of their commitment.

While based at Mt. Beulah, part of the training will be in the field, such as participation in a civil rights action, short term residence at a community center, freedom school, etc.

In addition to the development of leadership skills including the use and practice of nonviolence, the

basic training will include a general economic-political-social orientation, Negro History, the history and goals of the movement, basic political and economic facts of Mississippi itself, and their relationship to national and world development. Existing Mississippi field staff as well as especially recruited resource people for short term teaching will be used.

It is proposed that at the outset, a group of between 25-50 young people with very high potential be recruited, since much of the success of the corps idea and its future appeal will depend on this first group. Also, future leaders of the corps will probably be recruited from this first group. In subsequent recruiting more attention can and should be given to young people with less developed social and educational attainments. Some school "make up" could be made part of the training. The initial group will be composed of young people most of whom have completed high school and have shown some indication of their commitment to the movement. While mostly Mississippians, the corps idea includes the use of northern volunteers. It is not out of the realm of possibility that in time the corps will number several hundred and expand to include and relate to the movement in the north.

Upon completion of the training period members of the corps will be placed in existing projects, new areas to be opened, or wherever the need is seen to exist. Members may be assigned to work alone or with other corpsmen. In emergencies, any portion of the corps can be quickly mobilized. Some thought will have to be given to the length of service required for acceptance into the corps, (whether one or two years) and what financial or subsistence support will be given during the period of service. In this latter regard, note can be taken of the subsistence rate used by SNCC.

Comments continued

FINANCES:

At the present time northern groups are interested in "adopting" Mississippi communities or aiding in the building of community centers, etc. It is possible to think that the Freedom Corps may be acceptable as a "project" which will find northern support.

The Freedom Corps is proposed as an arm of the civil rights struggle, initially in Mississippi. It therefore should reflect the aims and goals, policies and strategies of the ongoing Freedom Movement as embodied in the people who live and work in Mississippi. A representative Board (SNCC, CORE, COFO--Mississippi staff, NAACP, Delta Ministry, FDP) or directing body will be the link between the movement and the development and use of the corps. It is proposed that the Delta Ministry initiate a meeting of representative leaders from the groups mentioned above to make plans for the earliest establishment of a Freedom Corps.

WARREN H. MCKENNA

COUNTIES REPORTS ABOUT "OPERATION HELP" FEBRUARY 1966

Meridian County._

February 10, 1966 a group a people went down to the court house to the supervisor meeting. They were told by the head of the supervisor that they could not come into the meeting. The head of the supervisor told the people that they were having a sepical meeting and that if they came in they would not benifit from it. Se he asked them what did they want and they told him that they wanted to report about how their people are being treated and that th they wanted something done about it. He told them that they needed the FBI, Sheriff, and the Police at this kind of meeting to report these things to. He told them to respect him as he would respect them and that they could not come into the meeting. H e told them that he would have a meeting for them on Wed. morning at 9'o'Clock and that he would have the Sheriff, FBI, and -- Police , and the head of the Welfare Department there. This report come from Mrs. A. Smith.

Clay County.

February 10, 1966 a group of people went down to the court house to the supervisor meeting and the meeting was ajointed, and the people went to Chickiesaw to see about food stamp. A group of people have went dowm to the welfare department to fill out application for "Operation H elp"jobs. T he people of Clay Co. will meet with the board of supervisor this Wed. at 3'o'clock.

Bolivar Co.(Shelby)

Monday, February 14, 1966 four people from Shelby went down to the welfare department to fill out application for "Operation Help" jobs. They were told by one of the office worker that they didn't know anything about operation help or such application. The four people also talked with the head man of supervisor and head of the welfare department. The man told them that he didn't know anything about the program no more than what he had read in the news papers. He told the people to come back on February 15, 1966 and for them to send application into Miss Gandy to the State Welfare Department of Jackson, Miss.

Warren County.

Thrusday, Febraury 11, 1966 Mrs. Mildred Cosey and three other people went down to the welfare department and they told them that they were having a meeting and for them to come back next Thursday. The head of the welfare department told them that they refuse to accept the program "Operation Help" and food because there are no real poor people there and that they did not need the food.

Forrest County.

Saturday 5, 1966 Mrs. Peggie Jean Connor and three other ladies went down to the welfare department and they were told by one of the office worker that they didn't have any application, and that so many people had been dowm to fill out application and that she just didn't have any more. She also said that she didn't know anything about "Operation H elp or any such application. She said that all of the jobs for commodity food had been taken, and that the food that is coming into Forrest Co. now will be sent out to other counties and that the food is just to be stored there until it is ship to ... the other counties. SHe told them that they already had a commodity program. The people who are getting food now are getting it. She didn't let them ... fill out any applications.

Holmes County(Lexingtom)

Henry Lorenzies of H olmes Co. said that commodities are being giving out to everyone who does not have a commodity cards. The people could not find out were the supervisor meeting was being held. A Negro is now working in the welfare department, and a Negro is handing out the food.

[1966, Feb]

COUNTIES REPORT ABOUT "OPERATION HELP"

Bolivar County (Rosedale)

February 10, 1966 Lewis Young and four other people went down to the welfare department and they were told that they didn't know anything about "Operation Help". Then they was told that Mrs. Nichols was too busy to see them. The people had been there for two hours. They were told that if there there were two in a house making about $80.00 a month that they could not get commodity . If there are 10 people in a house making about $260.00 a month that they could get commodity food. They were told that the people who are getting unemployment check could get commodity food. Mrs. Nichols said that she didn't know anything about "Operation Help" or anything about applications.

Monroe County.

Mr. Lee Dilworth and some other people went to the board of supervisor on February 24, 1966. The board of supervisor will not approve of the food to come into the Monroe Co. The reason for this is that the merchant wont be able to sell their products if the food come into the county. The MFDP is drawing up a pitition to present to the board of supervisor st the meeting on Tuesday. 50 people filled out application at the FDP office who needs food. They took the application to the Welfare Department , the land at the welfare department said that she didn't have any food. The people of the MFDP is sending a letter to Mr. Sam Yates of O.E.O. . The MFDP pitition the board of Alderman to appoint a Negro to the board of education. The Mayor has agreeded to give MFDP a hearing on the matter. He said that he wi will let them know on Saturday.

Corroll County.

Thrusday , February 10, 1966 Marty Olson and a group of people of MFDP form a committee and went down to the court house to talk to the supervisor, the supervisor told them that they had agreeded for the "Help" program to come into Carroll County. The supervisor is planning a committee and program. The y told the group to see Mr. Cubberville the head of the supervisor. The committee went to see him on Monday he told them that the food would only be given to two places and that was Vaiden, and Carroll County. Mr. Cobberville told them that they was hiring people and he gave them application and they filled them out. On Monday he let people fill out applications and yesterday the y gave out food in Carroll County only. They hired some Negro but the wrong ones. Also the committee found out that they had already had form the committee last week.

Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party,
507½ North Farish Street ,
Jackson.

Tel : 352-9128.

February 24th. 1966.

[1966]

MISSISSIPPI BAIL LOAN FUND

TRUST AGREEMENT

WHEREAS, many persons devoted to the protection of civil rights are deeply concerned over the increasing curtailment of such civil rights of the American citizen in Mississippi, believe that there now is and will continue to be a need for a bail loan fund for the benefit of persons whose civil rights, in the opinion of the Trustees, are threatened or under attack; and

WHEREAS, the undersigned have initiated the creation of a loan fund, to be known as the Mississippi Bail Loan Fund, (hereinafter referred to as the "Bail Loan Fund"), for the purpose of collecting cash by way of loans and of applying the same, or portions thereof, in accordance with the expressed directions of the Trustees of the Bail Loan Fund;

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS AGREED AND UNDERSTOOD AS FOLLOWS:

1. The undersigned have consented, and do hereby consent, to serve as the Board of Trustees of the Bail Loan Fund under the terms hereof.

2. The membership of the Board may be increased by a majority vote of its existing members at any given time, and the Board may also, by such majority vote, fill any vacancy on the Board which may occur through resignation, death or inability to act.

3. Except as the Board itself shall by majority vote determine, all actions, rules, regulations and resolutions by the Board shall require the consent of at least a majority of its members.

4. The Board will receive all cash loaned to the Bail Loan Fund and, promptly upon receipt thereof, deposit same under the control of the Board, in a depository or depositories to be designated by it.

5. At least two members of the Board shall execute receipts on behalf of the Board for loans made to the Bail Loan Fund.

6. All receipts shall set forth the terms and conditions upon which such respective loans are made. All receipts for loans of cash shall be made payable to bearer and shall be in a form approved by the Board.

7. The Board shall use such loans in accordance with the terms and conditions set forth in the respective receipts so issued to lenders and in such way as to carry out the purposes of the Bail Loan Fund in accordance with such resolutions and regulations as may from time to time

be adopted by the Board for the administration of the Bail Loan Fund. No loan shall be made by the Trustees unless borrower signs a reimbursement agreement.

8. The Board shall use the cash loaned to it only for the purpose of posting bail in such cases as it, by vote of a majority of its members deem meritorious and consistent with the purposes of the Bail Loan Fund.

9. The Board of Trustees shall not be obligated to pay any interest on any loans so received; and there shall not be deducted from any sums so received as loans any monies on account of administrative expenses in connection with the operation of the Bail Loan Fund.

10. The Board shall return any cash loaned upon thirty days notice in writing from the lender, provided only that such repayment will not, in the opinion of the Board, imperil the liberty of any person for whom such cash have been posted as bail. Said thirty days notice may be waived by the Board, as to permit immediate return of any loan. Loans of cash shall be repaid only on presentment of the receipt issued therefor.

11. The members of the Board of Trustees shall not be personally liable for the loss of any loan under this agreement resulting from any default or other action by any person on whose behalf such loan is given or because of any action by any court or other tribunal in cancelling or forfeiting such loan. Nor shall any individual trustees be personally liable because of repayment to persons loaning cash to this Bail Loan Fund upon their demands as provided herein, and the trustees' subsequent inability (because of cancellation or forfeiture of bonds) to make repayment to other persons upon subsequent requests and demands. In the event the Bail Loan Fund is finally terminated by majority decision of the Trustees or through any other cause, and there are insufficient funds remaining to pay all persons who have loaned cash to the fund, the Board of Trustees shall make provision for the pro rata distribution to the persons who are entitled thereto under the terms of this agreement.

12. No monies shall be lent from the Bail Loan Fund on or after October 1, 1966. Lenders shall receive cash pro rata and will be reimbursed pro rata as loans are returned to the Bail Loan Fund after that date.

Reports - Physicians' County Physician
Health County

COPY COPY COPY [1964, March 16]

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF MISSISSIPPI
JACKSON DIVISION

CIVIL ACTION NUMBER 3530 (J)(C)

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA — PLAINTIFF
v.
L. F. CAMPBELL, CIRCUIT COURT CLERK AND REGISTRAR, MADISON COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI; STATE OF MISSISSIPPI — DEFENDANTS

O R D E R

THIS CAUSE coming on to be heard by the Court on application of the plaintiff for a restraining order, and while the court is of the opinion that the registrar has not been shown to have indulged in any discrimination, it is the view of the Court that equity impels the use and fullfillment of some plan for both sides to accomplish the fullest measure of justice and right in this case

It is accordingly ordered that L. F. Campbell, Circuit Court Clerk and Registrar, shall immediately make provision for servicing and processing as many as four applications at a time from applicants who shall present themselves thereafter in strict accordance with the memoranda of the Court of even date; and the registrar shall continue to so process such applications until an intervening regular term of circuit court in Madison County, or until the further orders of this Court. All persons shall abide by this order and not interfere in any manner or to any extent with the execution thereof as outlined in said accompanying memoranda under penalty of law. A copy of this order and accompanying memoranda will be mailed to counsel of record for the defendant as sufficient service thereof.

ORDERED, this March 16, A.D., 1964.

s/ Harold Cox

UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF MISSISIIPPI
JACKSON DIVISION

CIVIL ACTION NUMBER 2530 (J)(C)

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA — PLAINTIFF

V.

L.F. CAMPBELL, CIRCUIT COURT CLERK AND REGISTRAR, MADISON COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI; STATE OF MISSISSIPPI — DEFENDANTS

Let's clear the atmposhere and set things in proper perspective for proper action. Without assessing responsibility for any wrongs, I prefer some positive thinking of the recognition of some basic and fundamental rights involved in this proceeding.

Any citizen is entitled to apply during business hours on secular days to register to vote. It is the duty of the registrar to furnish the citizen with an official application blank on which is contained the statutory intelligence test which the applicant must pass in order to be entitled to register to vote. The registrant is not entitled to give or receive any assistance during this test. It is the duty of the registrar to select a fair and reasonable section of the Constitution of Mississippi which the applicant must copy and then explain in writing. Later, the registrar must grade that application and determine whether or not the applicant passed, and is or is not entitled to register. If he fails, he can take another test, of course, but the applicant is entitled to a fair chance to pass a fair examination the first time. Among other things, he is required to explain the duties of citizenship, which is itself a very thought-provoking question. In the case before the Court, without knowing at the time exactly what the situation is, there has generally prevailed in this small town, an atmosphere literally charged with tension and excitement and unrest with all of its potential incidents. That can hardly be said to be a circumstance very conducive to a fair test being administered to an applicant for citizenship. Those stresses and the attending excitement certainly cannot help anyone confronted with even a very fair test under such circumstances. Nevertheless, a citizen is entitled to be afforded a resonable opportunity to register under those circumstances, if he wishes to do so.

The reigstrar is paid only one hundred and fifty dollars per month to act as registrar. He has no control over the accommodations or facilities afforded him. He has only one small office in the county courthouse which he is required to attend and keep open during business hours. It is this courthouse which sits in the center of a townsquare or block and around which most of the businesses are situated. It is the entire block which has been under heavy surveillance during this drive. The registrar has other duties to perform which are done principally for the circuit court. He does not have a deputy registrar, and thus unassisted, he must personally administer and supervise the administration of the ~~xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx~~ registration test to these voter applicants.

At times, there have been as many as two hundred fifty people waiting in line during the day. These applications have been handed to the applicant one at a time on a first come basis. There has been no effort made by the leaders of this drive to try to work out some plan with the registrar for expediting and facilitating the processing of these applications. The processing of such applications has accordingly been very slow. Some of the older people in the front of the line were not mentally or physically alert and they have taken as much as two hours a piece to fill out the application while the line waited its turn outside the building. Corrective measures must be applied to that situation too. The object of this voter registration drive must be and remain only that of effective application to register and not a publicity seeking escapade for the aggrandizment of others. Cooperation of prospective applicants is enlisted and invited to assure the fullest measure of accomplishment from this planned registration without fanfare. These tensions must be dissolved for the best interest of everybody concerned. The registrar cannot be justly told to employ an assistant with his meager allowance for that function. The plan herein suggested by the Court will probably do that with the result that one of the peace officers may supervise the applicants who will take their test outside the registrar's office in the hall immediately outside his door so as to assure that no applicant shall give or receive any assistance on this test. The registrar should get three portable voting booths which are used at elections and set those booths in the hall outside his door so as not to interfere with the use of the hall. He should thus be able to let one applicant take the test before him in his office and three applicants take their tests in the booths at the same time in the hall under the supervision of a peace officer who will see that this process is not interefered with in any manner by anybody at any time. There should not be more than twenty-five applicants in the line at any time during the morning hours and not more than twenty-five applicants in the line at any time during the afternoon hours. No more applicants than that should be allowed on the courthouse grounds during the day. The registrar should thus process approximately fifty applications a day. The leaders of this drive should cooperate with the authorities and see that the applicants are available in such steady numbers as to fill that quota until this drive has ended and lapse into a routine day to day function. This plan will have to be interrupted if a regular term of court intervenes as to which the Court may be advised. A peace officer should see to it that the more alert applicants are processed first with the view of facilitating and expediting that processing procedure as much as reasonably possible to do so. These applicants will present themselves to the peace officer on the courthouse grounds and thereafter be under his exclusive supervision and direction as to the order in which they will appear for their application forms; and either that officer or another may supervise the test indicated on the inside of the building outside the presence of the registrar. It is the wish of the Court that the parties and the applicants will cooperate with each other to see that this plan works with the least possible friction.

An order to the effect indicated has been prepared by the Court as is usually done in these cases.

March 16, 1964

s/ Harold Cox

UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE

NINE IN CHURCH MIX[illegible]RY GUILTY

N.O. Times-Picayune

Given 6-Month Sentences; Fined $500

3/31/64

By Ed McCUSKER

JACKSON, Miss. (AP) — A city judge Monday found nine members of a biracial group that attempted to crack church segregation here guilty of disturbing public worship.

Judge James L. Spencer White fined the nine, seven Methodist ministers and two Negroes, to six months in jail and $500 fines.

Negro attorney R. Jess Brown, representing the group, said an appeal would be taken to the Hinds County chancery court.

Spencer, after hearing testimony and arguments for almost two hours, handed down the decision.

He said "this country has not reached the station where a group of persons who seek to worship in the way they want to, have to be told by someone else to do it this way or that way."

"I firmly believe," the Jackson judge said, "that a congregation has the right to worship in the way it desires without someone coming from Illinois or from any other place to tell a congregation to do it another way."

The nine were arrested Easter Sunday after attempting to join the all-white congregation of the Capitol St. Methodist Church.

They were charged with trespassing and disturbing public worship. The trespassing charges were dropped prior to the hearing.

Spencer said the issue is crystal clear. Does a church congregation have the right to worship in the manner they want to? And does another group have the right to tell that congregation to adhere to another policy?

Looking at the nine members of the group, the judge said "you should have known that similar groups as you were arrested here for trying the same thing that you tried. You should have known or been told that church officials have taken a policy stand in this matter and [illegible] intend to keep to it unless they announce differently.

"Just as these gentlemen feel equally strong about certain issues, so, too, this congregation and other persons have strong

NO T-P 4/1/64

7 THEOLOGIANS ARE RELEASED

Say Miss. Methodist Church in Captivity

(The Times-Picayune Capital Bureau)

JACKSON, Miss.—Seven white Methodist theologians arrested at a Methodist church here Sunday charged that the Methodist Church is a "church in captivity" in Mississippi Tuesday after being released from jail.

The seven were found guilty in municipal court of disturbing public worship and sentenced to six months in jail and a $500 fine. They were arrested Easter Sunday in front of the Capitol Street Methodist Church when they arrived with two Jackson Negro men.

Dr. Everett Tilson, a faculty member from the Methodist Theological School, Delaware, Ohio, charged after his release that the Methodist Church "has no concern with the plight of the Negro in Mississippi and, lacks the vision or the will to do anything about it."

Tilson, formerly a faculty member at Vanderbilt School of Theology who recently spoke at the University of Southern Mississippi, said the group of theologians came to Mississippi out of "concern to demonstrate the oneness and unity of the church of Jesus Christ."

He remarked that the only friendly religious leaders to visit them in jail were two Roman Catholic priests. "They gave us some hope for the church," he said.

Tilson said that the treatment given the group by police and public officials while they were under arrest was "better than the treatment some of the Methodist Church leaders gave us."

He said the Methodist Church in Mississippi was "an illustra-

Hearing Asked In [illegible] Court

JAC[illegible] attorney [illegible] white mi[illegible] Negroes co[illegible] public worship here Easter in an attempt to crack church segregation, asked a federal court Monday to hear the case.

R. Jess Brown filed the motion in Federal Court hours before he was slated to go into County Court to appeal the biracial group's City Court conviction.

The group was sentenced to six months in jail and fined $500 after a hearing last week before city Judge James L. Spencer.

All were arrested Easter in front of the Capitol Street Methodist Church after they refused to reed police orders to leave the church grounds. The group sought to gain entrance to the all-white congregation of the church.

GRAND JURY CONVENES

Beckwith Case Set For Call March 23

The murder case against Byron De La Beckwith, which ended in a mis-trial last month, is set for call March 23 at which time a date will be set for a second trial.

Beckwith, charged with the fatal shooting of NAACP Negro leader Medgar Evers, has been confined to Hinds county jail since the mis-trial in February.

Judge Leon Hendrick declared the mis-trial after 12 jurors debated for hours without reaching a verdict. It was reported the count stood 7 for not guilty and 5 guilty when the mis-trial was declared.

Monday Judge M. M. McGowan slammed at the so - called "civil rights" movement which he claims is "born of violence."

TO JURY

Judge McGowan, speaking to a newly empaneled Grand Jury, said "we are facing a very grave crisis in our county and it takes extra courage to face future decisions."

Continuing on the subject, the judge said "All over the nation its approach is heralded by swirling mobs tramping through the streets, the lanes, and highways of the county, demanding, threatening and terrorizing."

His complete address on the civil rights movement to the Grand Jury is as follows:

"For the second time during our nation's history, we have been thrown into convulsive agitation over so - called civil rights. We are in the throes of such an agitation now.

"After the Civil War, when the winds of anger and passion were blowing through the land with unremitting fury, a vengeful Congress rammeed through a series of civil rights laws—the same as we are having forced upon us today. A courageous President, Andrew Johnson, promptly vetoed them. The Congress as promptly passed them over his veto. Almost ninety years ago, a responsible Supreme Court held these laws unconstitutional and threw them out.

CORRODING

"Today, in an age of corroding morality, when reason seems to have been completely dethroned, the plunderers are back again, working like maggots, seeking to undermine our Constitution and our liberties and freedoms.

"Actually there is no such thing in our entire legal system as a "civil rights" law. It is true that our law is divided into two main bodies, the civil law and the criminal law. All of the law defines rights and fixes obligations, the one equally as important as the other. The general scheme of things is that the people are required to give up just so much and no more of their natural freedoms and liberties as required to operate a 1stable and efficient government.

"The entire civil rights concept as put forth today is incongruous and false. It is repugnant to the law. It seeks to use the powers of the government to force people to share their property aand society with others. In other words, it seeks to use the policeman's club to force people to extend social amenities to others.

"Such a system will destroy constitutional government at one fell swoop. Liberty and freedom as we have known and cherished it will disappear. Since such a system cannot operate under our Constitution, it means a dictatorship, a socialist - communist ditatorship. the heralded "Civil Rights" will disappear. So will all other rights. They do not have "demonstrators" in Poland, Hungary, East Germany, or Russia. The Poles, East Germans and Hungarians each tried it — once. When the tanks passed over and the slaughter was over, all was quiet and remains quiet. Yet, and the reason is not hard to see, the minions of communism and dictatorship are the chief agitators of the "Civil Rights" mobs in our country today."

JURORS

Judge McGowan named Richard A. Hill as foreman of the jury.

Other members include: George Dixon, William L. Gleen, Roy Hurst, J. W. Fowler, Jr., J. S. Poffenburger, R. C. McGreer, Herman Boteler, Hughlon R. McAlphin, Carl Van Namen, Clyde K. Kilpatrick, George W. Durant, Marvin E. Robinson, William S. Hamilton, H. H. Chalk, James P. Exum, James T. Ward and Robert Turner, a Negro.

FIVE BECKWITH JURORS SEATED

Times-Picayune Wire

Second Straight Night Session Ordered

By GAVIN SCOTT

JACKSON, Miss. (AP) — Five of the 12 men who will serve as jurors in the second murder trial of Byron De La Beckwith were seated late Tuesday.

Beckwith is accused of killing Negro civil rights leader Medgar Evers.

Attorneys for the Greenwood segregationist rejected seven of the men who had been accepted earlier by the state.

Circuit Judge Leon Hendrick immediately ordered a second straight night session of the two-day-old trial in an effort to complete the jury.

Dist. Atty. William Waller took a little over a day to select 12 white men for jury duty. But after four hours of questioning by Defense Attorney Hugh Cunningham, seven of these were dismissed.

Cunningham, a law partner of former Gov. Ross Barnett, used seven of the defense's 12 challenges for which no reason must be given.

The seven who were rejected by the defense included five who admitted they at one time or another had had impressions or opinions that were unfavorable to Beckwith. Each said, however, they could put them aside and the judge had ruled them competent jurors.

Beckwith, 43, of Greenwood, Miss., a fertilizer salesman and outspoken segregationist, is accused of being the sniper who shot and killed Medgar Evers from ambush last June 12.

Evers was statewide secretary of the Natioal Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

Beckwith's first trial took 12 days and edned Feb. 7 with a hung jury.

Cunningham, one of Beckwith's three lawyers, began questioning the prospective jurors in mid-morning, after Waller said they were acceptable to the state.

The only Negro among the first 36 called for questioning was released by the judge at the start of the session because of age. In Mississippi, persons over 65 are not requested to serve. The Negro said he was 69 and did not want to be a juror.

Cunningham's questioning of prospective jurors came as a mild surprise, since he took little vocal part in the first trial.

"We are not seeking sympathy.' 'he said solmnly to the men in the jury box. "We are seeking justice."

He told them they would have to guard against being swayed by sympathy "if the state puts on the widow of Medgar Evers," as happened before.

Beckwith, nattily attired in a striped suit and wearing a gold tie, looked bored much of the day. He occasionally jotted down notes. Often he looked back at the nearly empty seats reserved for spectators.

His 17-year-old son sat on a bench behind him.

City police and sheriff's deputies, with pistols strapped to their sides, continued to search all spectators and stand guard outside the courtroom doors.

States Item 4/9/64

Testimony Due In Second Trial Of Beckwith

JACKSON, Miss. (AP) — The state sets out today for a second time to convince a 12-man, all-white Mississippi jury that Byron De La Beckwith killed a Negro civil rights leader from ambush.

The parade of prosecution witnesses was set to start as soon as an alternate juror was picked for the circuit court trial.

BECKWITH, 43-year-old segregationist from Greenwood, is accused of gunning down Medgar Evers, state field secretary of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. Evers, 37, was shot last June 12 as he returned home from a civil rights meeting.

The slaying stirred racial tensions in this Southern state and shocked a nation.

Beckwith was arrested 10 days later and charged with murder. His 12-day first trial ended Feb. 7 with a hung jury.

THE JURY FOR the retrial was completed late last night after three exhaustive days and nights during which 64 persons —one a 69-year-old Negro— were questioned. The Negro man was released because of his age.

Should the jury find the ex-Marine fertilizer salesman guilty, it would then have the responsibility at fixing punishment at either death or life imprisonment.

The jury includes contractors, carpenters and professional people. All are from Hinds County. Eight have attended college. All are Protestants.

Witnesses Take Stand in Miss.

Times Picayune 4/10/64

Evers Widow Early to Tell Story

By GAVIN SCOTT

JACKSON, Miss. (AP) — The widow of slain Negro integration leader Medgar Evers testified Thursday her children rushed to the door of their house the night her husband was killed and begged their blood-stained father to get up.

Mrs. Medgar Evers, dressed in a blue suit and speaking in a subdued voice, was the second witness at the trial of the white segregationist accused of shooting her husband in the back last June 12.

Testimony in the four-day-old trial of Byron De La Beckwith began in mid-afternoon after 12 jurors and one alternate, all white, were seated.

Mrs. Evers, in testimony similar to that given at Beckwith's first trial—which ended with a deadlocked jury—told of the night her husband was slain. She said she and her three small children were watching a late movie on television when she heard Evers' car turn into the drive-way.

Evers was state field secretary for the National Assn. for the Advancement of Colored People. The night of his death, at the age of 37, he had attended a civil rights meeting at a Jackson church.

Detective Capt. B. D. Harrel Jr. of the Jackson police department, the first witness, testified that his office was notified about 12:45 a.m. of the shooting and that he assigned officers to investigate.

If convicted, the 43-year-old fertilizer salesman and Marine veteran would face a sentence of death or life imprisonment. The decision would be up to the jury under Mississippi law.

Beckwith was arrested 10 days after Evers' slaying. A highly publicized first trial wound up Feb. 7 with the jury unable to reach a verdict.

Rather pale and thin from 10 months in custody, Beckwith seemed somewhat moody during the first three days of the trial. His spirits soared today as the first sizable group of spectators showed up.

About half the spectators, all of whom were searched for weapons, were white.

The state expects to call about 35 witnesses over a period of several days. A Saturday morning session will be held this week in an effort to speed the trial along, the judge said.

Mrs. Evers was cross-examined by Hardy Lott, a Citizens Council leader from Greenwood and chief attorney for the defense. Lott attempted to show that Evers was actively engaged in organizing mass boycotts and demonstrations and similar integration activities during his nine years here as a NAACP leader.

She likewise said she had no knowledge of any threats on her pital behind a police escort.

Evers died a few minutes later.

The next witness, Dr. Forrest G. Bratley, a pathologist, testi- husband's life just before his death. She conceded there had been threats over the years, however. She said there had been crank telephone calls.

Houston Wells, Evers' neighbor, testified he heard the shot that killed Evers, rushed outside with his revolver and fired it into the air "to freighten the sniper away." He said he did not see the sniper.

The witness said he put the dying Negro leader in his station wagon and rushed him to a hos- fied he performed an autoospy on the body. He said Evers was killed by a "high-powered bullet" that left a hole the size of a dime in his back and one as large as a dollar in his chest.

Detective Sgt. John A. Chamblee testified the bullet that killed Evers was fired from a clump of bushes in a vacant lo 200 feet away.

Chamblee was still on the stand when Circuit Judge Leon Hendricks recessed court for the night.

During the first three hours of testimony, the state used six witnesses and 15 photographs in presenting its case.

States-Item 4/10/64

Offer More Evidence in Beckwith Trial

JACKSON, Miss. (AP) — An all-white Mississippi jury gets a look today at more of the evidence the state says will point to Byron De La Beckwith as the slayer of Negro integration leader Medgar Evers.

A half dozen witnesses, including Evers' widow, testified yesterday after the jury-selection phase of the circuit court trial, now in its fifth day, was completed. Their testimony paralled that given at the first Beckwith trial, which ended Feb. 7 with a hung jury.

EVERS WAS a leader in the integration movement. Beckwith is a salesman and segregationist from Greenwood.

A sniper armed with a high powered rifle shot Evers in the back as he stepped from his car outside his home here just after midnight on June 12.

Mrs. Evers told the jury she and her three children were watching a late show on television when her husband's car drove up the driveway to their ranch-style home.

"THERE WAS the sound of a door closing and there was this loud blast or shot," she said in a subdued voice that carried to the farthest corner of the courtroom. "After that there was silence.

"I immediately ran to the door, turned on the light and there I found my husband, sprawled in blood."

Mrs. Evers said her children fell to the floor—as they had been trained by their father to do—when they heard the shot.

"When they heard me scream," she continued, "they ran to the door and asked their father to get up."

BECKWITH STOPPED his almost constant scribbling on note paper and watched without expression as she talked.

Asked by Hardy Lott, chief defense attorney, if Evers had not received numerous threats on his life because of his integration activities, Mrs. Evers answered, "I don't know anything about that."

Evers' neighbor, Houston Wells, said he heard a loud shot, hurried outside and found Evers "laying face down in a pool of blood on the carport. . .he was still alive."

DR. FORREST G. BRATLEY, a pathologist, said the bullet that tore a hole through Evers came from a high powered rifle, possibly one of 30 caliber size.

A Jackson detective testified the sniper peered through an eye-level hole in the bushes and shot as Evers stood 200 feet away, silhouetted by the lights of his carport.

The second trial started off faster than the first, primarily because defense attorneys were familiar with the evidence and needed no time to study the state's exhibits.

Lott hopes to start calling de-

Times-Picayune

District Attorney Silent on Any 'New' Evidence

Beckwith Trial Resumes Today in Jackson

By GAVIN SCOTT

JACKSON, Miss. (AP) — Dist. Atty. William L. Waller kept to himself Sunday the state's best guarded secret—whether it has any new evidence in the Byron De La Beckwith murder trial.

The tall, handsome prosecutor wouldn't say if he plans any surprises before resting his case, possibly late Tuesday, against the ardent segregationist accused of gunning down Negro civil rights leader Medgar Evers.

Waller's case to date has been a carbon copy of that at the first trial, which ended Feb. 7 with the jury deadlocked 6-6.

Evers, slain at 37, was in the forefront of the budding integration movement in this rigidly segregated state. He was the state field secretary for the NAACP. His death last June 12, from a sniper's bullet, was termed barbaric by the late President Kennedy.

The State charges the shot that tore through Evers' body, as he stepped from his car outside his home here, came from a high-powered rifle fired from a clump of bushes 200 feet away.

Beckwith's arrest came 11 days after the post midnight shooting. He is a white fertilizer salesman from Greenwood, Miss.

Waller, 37, a seventh generation Mississippian and a graduate of the University of Mississippi Law School, used 2½ days and 21 witnesses last week in painstakingly putting together his case.

Jackson police told of finding a 1917 model Enfield rifle hidden in a honeysuckle thicket not far from where the sniper stood. An FBI firearms expert said the shot that killed Evers came from an Enfield rifle.

The expert, Richard Poppleton of Washington, admitted it would be impossible to determine which particular Enfield—some two million were manufactured—fired the bullet.

The bullet, it turned out, had been so mutilated that markings made on it when it passed through the gun barrel were erased.

Innis T. McIntyre, 26, a cotton planter from Itta Bena, Miss., testified he bought an Enfield rifle for $29.50 in 1959 and swapped it to Beckwith the next year.

Another witness, sports shop operator John Goza of Grenada, told of swapping a six-power telescopic sight to Beckwith on May 12 in return for a .45-caliber pistol. Goza said the sight was similar to one on the weapon the State claims was used to shoot Evers.

Two fingerprint experts testified a fingerprint found on the rifle was identical to one taken from Beckwith's right index finger.

One of the experts, Capt. Ralph Hargrove of the Jackson police department, testified the print on the rifle sight was not more than 12 hours old when he saw it. He said he examined the gun 12 hours after the shooting.

Beckwith Trial: Cabbie Admits Getting Threat

JACKSON, Miss. (AP) — A state witness testified today he could not be positive the man who asked him directions to a Negro integration leader's house was Byron De La Beckwith.

Hubert Speight, a taxi driver, said the man resembled Beckwith but "I couldn't be positive. I wouldn't swear to it."

BECKWITH is on trial for the second time on charges he shot and killed Medgar Evers last June 12.

District Attorney William Waller told Circuit Judge Leon Hendrick Speight had changed his testimony from the first trial—in which he made positive identification.

"Have you been threatened in any way?" Waller asked the veteran cab driver.

"Yes, sir," Speight answered.

Later, Waller asked this question:

"Since you testified before have you been assaulted?"

Defense attorneys objected to the question as being highly improper and the judge would not allow the witness to answer.

The teenage son of a grocer testified earlier a car similar to one owned by Beckwith circled the neighborhood where Evers lived "three or four times" the night the Negro was killed.

Robert Pittman, 17, whose father's grocery store is near the Evers home here, identified the car he says is a white 1962 Valiant.

See BECKWITH— Page 4

THE STATE says Beckwith, a white segregationist, owned such a car. Beckwith is on trial for the second time on charges of murdering Evers last June 12.

Young Pittman told the all-white jury he saw a white Valiant with a long radio antenna and a Masonic emblem on the rear view mirror parked beside his father's store the night of June 8. He said he did not see anyone near the vehicle.

That same day, another state witness, Lee Swilley, testified Beckwith asked him where Evers lived.

Swilley was the first witness to testify at the start of the second week of Beckwith's second murder trial. Swilley said he and Speight were parked outside the Trailways bus station when Beckwith approached them.

"He asked us if did we know where the NAACP leader Evers lived," Swilley said. "And we told him no."

THE WITNESS said Beckwith then went in the bus station, looked at the telephone directory and came back and asked them about three addresses.

Defense Puts On Beckwith Case Evidence

States-News 4/14/64

JACKSON, Miss. (AP) — The defense unfurls its major evidence today in a drive to puncture the state's case against Byron De La Beckwith, a white man accused of killing a Negro civil rights leader.

There was speculation Beckwith might tell his story to the all-white circuit court jury before the day was over. His attorneys weren't saying.

The case could reach the jury tomorrow.

BECKWITH, 43, a crusading segregationist from Greenwood, is accused of killing Medgar Evers last June 12. Evers was shot in the back by a sniper with a high power rifle.

The prosecution spent nearly four days and 32 witnesses in its second try at showing Beckwith to be the sniper. The first trial ended Feb. 7 with a hung jury.

Beckwith's dramatic, unexpected stint on the witness stand highlighted the defense at that trial.

The state rested its case yesterday afternoon with testimony aimed at putting Beckwith near Evers' home at the time of the slaying.

JOHN BOOK, Greenville man who works for the firm that employed Beckwith as a fertilizer salesman, testified the company gave Beckwith a 1962 white Valiant to drive. He said it was equipped with a two-way radio antenna.

Miss Barbara Ann Holder, an ash-blonde ex-carhop, said she saw a white car "with a long aerial on it" about an hour before the shooting. She said it was parked in the shadows at the rear of a restaurant parking lot near the vacant field where the state claims the sniper hid in wait for Evers to return home from a late night civil rights meeting.

Two teenaged boys told of seeing a white 1962 Valiant driving along a street near the Evers home that same night.

DA COMPLETES TRIAL EVIDENCE

State Rests Against Beckwith 4/14/64

By GAVIN SCOTT

JACKSON, Miss. (AP) — The state completed its case Monday in the retrial of Byron De La Beckwith on charges that he murdered Negro integration leader Medgar Evers.

Dist. Atty. William Waller rested his case at 3:23 p.m. after nearly four days of testimony and 32 witnesses.

The state charges Beckwith, an ardent segregationist from Greenwood, Miss., was the sniper who cut down Evers from ambush last June 12.

A defense motion for a directed verdict of acquittal was denied. The defense contended the state had not proved its case.

One of the final prosecution witnesses, Miss Barbara Ann Holder, testified she was at a drive-in restaurant near the Evers home and that she saw a white car "with a long aerial on it."

Miss Holder, an ash blone carhop, said the car was parked at the edge of a vacant lot—within a few feet of the spot where police found the rifle they belive killed Evers.

She said she could not identify the man because of the darkness.

Earlier, a key state witness varied his testimony and the prosecutor said threats and a beating were responsible.

Herbert Speight, a taxicab driver for 26 years, testified Beckwith resembled the man who asked directions to Medgar Evers' house four days before the Negro integration leader was killed.

Speight and fellow cab driver, Lee Swilley, said at the earlier trial they were positive the man asking them where "that NAACP leader Evers lived" was Beckwith.

Swilley repeated his testimony before the all-white jury today, but Speight hedged.

"The fellow resembled him," Speight told Waller. "I couldn't be positive."

"Are you positive it was Beckwith?" insisted the astonished district attorney.

"I'm almost positive. I couldn't swear to it."

"Your honor," said Waller to Circuit Judge Leon Hendric, "this wasn't the way he testified before. I'd like permission to cross-examine."

With the judge approving, Waller then asked the cabbie if he had been threatened since the first trial ended last Feb. 7. Speight said he had.

"Since you testified before, have you been assaulted?" the district attorney inquired.

Speight was not permitted to answer, but Waller told newsmen later the witness "got the hell beat out of him . . . . He tried to change his testimony."

Except for Speight, the state's other witness all have given testimony virtually identical to that at the original trial.

There was one minor surprise, when John Book of Greenville, Miss., appeared as a prosecution witness. Sunday night he was called by the defense.

Book and Beckwith worked for the same fertilizer sales firm. Book testified Beckwith had a white, 1962 Valiant automobile assigned to his use.

BECKWITH SAYS HE IS INNOCENT

Times-Picayune 4/12/64

Denies Killing Medgar Evers in Jackson

By GAVIN SCOTT

JACKSON, Miss. (AP)—Byron De La Beckwith told an all-white jury trying him for murder Tuesday he did not kill Negro integration leader Medgar Evers.

The crusading segregationist from Greenwood, Miss. took the stand near the climax of his second trial. Basically, his story was the same as before.

"Did you shoot Medgar Evers?" asked his attorney, Hardy Lott of Greenwood, past president of the Greenwood Citizens Council.

"No, sir," Beckwith replied.

"Were you in Jackson the day or night that Evers was shot?" Lott asked.

"No, sir," Beckwith said.

ACCUSED AS SNIPER

Beckwith is accused by the state of being the sniper who shot Evers in the back just after midnight last June 12. Evers was killed as he returned from a civil rights meeting.

Beckwith was attired in a striped sports coat and gray slacks. He wore a gray tie with a thin yellow stripe in it.

The circuit courtroom was nearly filled for the first time in the eight-day-old trial—when Beckwith took the stand. He spoke calmly with a Southern drawl, but appeared to be more nervous than when he testified at the first trial. That trial ended with a hung jury.

Lott questioned him on each of the key points in the state's case. Beckwith disputed each of the state's witnesses.

Specifically, he denied asking two Jackson taxi drivers where Evers lived or even being in Jackson on the day the taxi drivers testified they saw him at a bus station.

DENIES CHARGE

Asked if he had ever been in the vicinity of the vacant lot where the state charges Evers' slayer stood, Beckwith replied: "Never in my life."

Beckwith said he owns a white sedan but that it had never been parked at a drive-in restaurant near Evers' home.

The night of the shooting, Beckwith said he had dinner in Greenwood about 7 p.m. and then retired to his two-story frame home, where he lives alone and did his weekly reports. He is a fertilizer salesman.

shot in the back from ambush last June 12.

Hobby's surprise testimony came as the defense sought to discredit to the all-white circuit jury the state's case linking Beckwith to the scene of the crime.

Hobby, a truck driver who moved from Jackson to Memphis last July, did not testify at the first trial. He is about the same build and height as Beckwith.

Before resting its case Monday, the prosecution produced witnesses who put a 1962 model, white automobile on the southeast corner of Joe's parking lot the night of the slaying. The southeast corner is adjacent to the vacant lot in which the state claims the killer stood and waited for Evers to return home.

Hobby said he owns a 1960 auto and that its color is white. He said it does not have a long aerial; state witnesses said the car they saw had such an antenna.

ROUTE TO WORK

The truck driver said he was en route to work the night Evers was killed and stopped as he usually did at the drive-in for a cup of coffee. He said he parked in front of the cafe.

Hobby also told of using a restroom which has an outside entrance.

Miss Barbara Ann Holder, an ex-carhop, testified for the state that she saw a man get out of a white sedan shortly before the shooting and enter the restroom. Then, she added, the man drove the sedan to the southeast corner of the lot and parked near where officers the next day found the high-powered rifle believed used to kill Evers.

Beckwith's attorneys used a half dozen witnesses in an effort to refute her testimony.

Lee H. Cockrell, who owned the drive-in, said he could not remember a car parked where Miss Holder testified one to be. He admitted, on cross-examination, he was inside the drive-in most of the time.

'NO CAR IN LOT'

A waitress at the drive-in, Mrs. Doris Sumrall testified "there were no cars in the lot at all."

Miss Holder testified she observed the white car about 11:45 p.m., or one hour before Evers' death.

Three defense witnesses testified Miss Holder was dancing at a nightspot from 10 p.m. to nearly 1 a.m. that night.

Their testimony had not been unexpected—but Hobby's was.

Asked by Dist. Atty. William Waller why he contacted defense attorneys, Hobby said it was because "in newspaper accounts

APRIL 17, 1964

Beckwith--

(Continued from Front Page)

shals out of the courtroom.

The judge said the case would be continued to May term of court.

Beckwith, 43, a fertilizer salesman from Greenwood, Miss., seemed relaxed and not at all worried as the hours dragged by. He joked with his guards, talked with his 17-year-old son and waved and nodded at spectators who filled the courtroom at first, then drifted away as time went on.

THE JURORS BEGAN deliberations early yesterday afternoon. With time out for supper, they kept at it until the judge sent them to bed at 9:45 p. m.

In the first trial, the jury deliberated 11 hours before Hendrick gave up. That jury reportedly was split 6-6.

The state charged Beckwith was the sniper who stood in a cluster of bushes and honeysuckle vines and shot Evers in the back last June 22. It pictured him as, "A man with a motive. A man at war."

FREE ON $10,000 BOND

States-Item 4/18/64

Beckwith Returns Home

GREENWOOD, Miss. (AP)—Byron De La Beckwith, accused slayer of Negro integration leader Medgar Evers, was back in his hometown for the first time in 10 months today.

Beckwith, 43-year-old ardent segregationist, was freed on $10,000 bond yesterday two hours after an all-white jury deadlocked in his second murder trial at Jackson.

Circuit Judge Leon Hendrick ordered a mistrial when the jury said it couldn't agree on a verdict after 10 hours.

JUDGE HENDRICK had declared a mistrial in Beckwith's first trial last Feb. 7. Jurors deliberated 11 hours then before telling the judge they were hopelessly deadlocked.

The state charged that Beckwith was the sniper who ambushed Evers as the Negro leader steped out of his car at his home here last June 12. Evers was state field secretary of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

prepare and meet the case."

BECKWITH'S chief defense counsel, Greenwood attorney Hardy Lott, said he would decide later whether to press for another trial.

Because the case ended in a mistrial, it will come up again on the May docket at Circuit Court in Jackson. However, it probably would not be tried again then since the May term is normally limited to civil cases.

"You don't know how good it is to be back here," Beckwith told newsmen after arriving in Greenwood. He had been in

SECOND BECKWITH CASE IS DECLARED MISTRIAL

Bond Set First Time For Suspect

State-Item 4/17/64

JACKSON, Miss. (AP) —An all-white jury deadlocked today in the murder trial of Byron De La Beckwith and Judge Leon Hendrick immediately declared a mistrial.

After conferring with attorneys, Judge Hendrick then set $10,000 bond for Beckwith who has been held in jail without bond since his arrest last June for the slaying of Negro integration leader Medgar Evers.

A short time later Beckwith sped away from the Hinds County Courthouse, lying on the back seat of the car to avoid detection. Hinds County Sheriff Fred Picket drove the car and another officer sat beside him.

This marked the end of the state's second effort to convict Beckwith, a dedicated segregationist, of the murder of Negro integration leader Medgar Evers.

The jury said it was hopelessly deadlocked after 10 hours of deliberation. It gave no breakdown of how it stood.

BECKWITH'S first trial ended with the jury split 6-6. He was accused of the ambush slaying of Evers, a crime that shocked the nation last summer. Evers had spearheaded mass desegregation demonstrations and boycotts here.

The judge called the jurors into the courtroom at 11:30 a. m. and polled each of them as to whether they thought there was any chance of a verdict.

The emphatic replies ranged from "It doesn't look too good" to "I wouldn't think so" and "No, sir."

"I have never been in favor of forcing a verdict," the judge said. "I have never been in favor of wearing out 12 men such as you are. You are dismissed."

HENDRICK ordered Beckwith remanded to the sheriff and returned to jail cell on the fourth floor of the courthouse.

Beckwith showed no emotion as he followed two mar-

States-Item
Mar. 12 '64

Banker Quits Evers Fund Trusteeship

JACKSON, Miss. (AP) — The Medgar Evers family memorial fund is still without a trustee as chain mail envelopes containing contributions continue to flow into the law office of former Gov. Ross Barnett.

The court-appointed trustee told The Associated Press today he doesn't have time to handle the money and meet other business and civic demands.

MARVIN COLLUM, president of the First National Bank of Jackson, said, "I can't handle the fund and keep up with all my other obligations. I just don't have the time.

"I first learned that I had been named trustee when I read it in the newspapers. Well, I can't handle it. I don't have the time."

Barnett, who stepped down as governor Jan. 21, has been deluged with mail naming him as trustee of the Evers memorial fund.

Over 5,000 letters have been sent to him.

Barnett termed the mail "harassment."

THE LETTERS, sacked in mail bags, clutter a corner in his office. They bear mostly checks for $1, although some contain checks for larger amounts. They come from all over the United States and Europe.

Barnett went to chancery court last month to get a trustee named.

The letters began finding their way to Barnett shortly after Medgar Evers, a Negro and field secretary for the NAACP, was shot down at his Jackson home June 12, 1963.

Byron De La Beckwith, a white man, was charged with the ambush slaying. His first trial ended with the jury deadlocked. Another trial will get under way later this month.

NY TIMES 4/4/64

Birgit Nilsson Seriously Weighs Cancellation of Southern Concert

By HENRY RAYMONT

Birgit Nilsson, the Swedish soprano, is seriously considering canceling her scheduled concert in Jackson, Miss., it was learned last night.

As a result of appeals from civil rights groups, Miss Nilsson was understood to have abandoned a plan to fulfill her engagement on April 9 and donate the fee to an integrated charity.

A spokesman for the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People said that Miss Nilsson was expected to call off the concert in the face of threats of racial demonstrations,

The cancellation would dramatize the growing resistance by concert artists against performing in Jackson's Municipal Auditorium as long as racial segregation is practiced there.

Musicians Respond

Last month, the N.A.A.C.P. sent out letters to 90 leading musicians urging them to join in a "concerted effort" to condemn racial discrimination by refusing to play before segregated audiences. More than 30 replies favoring a protest have been received thus far.

Dr. John Morsell, a high N.A.A.C.P. official, met recently with Kurt Weinhold, president of Columbia Artists Management, Inc., to work out a gradual plan designed to limit Community Concerts in the South to nonsegregated halls by the 1965-66 season.

Columbia Artists Management is responsible for the hiring of musicians for most of the Southern communities.

The proposal, however, is expected to meet stiff resistance from the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee, which advocates a more militant policy to achieve abolition of segregation. The organization last month called for an outright boycott of Southern communities by entertainers and concert artists.

John Lewis, chairman of the student committee, said yesterday that one of the immediate goals of the move was to protest "the terribly serious situation in Jackson" where Negroes have been arrested for attempting to attend concerts at the Municipal Auditorium although they had tickets.

"We have th8s far achieved an important moral victory because a growing number of prominent artists and entertainers have refused to play in Jackson" Mr. Lewis asserted.

For that reason, he explained, it was important that Miss Nilsson also cancel her concert.

Miss Nilsson, one of the most distinguished singers of the opera and concert stage, arrived here from a tour too tired to comment on the situation, a friend said. She is scheduled to sing the lead role in Verdi's "Otello" at the Metropolitan Opera House this afternoon.

Edgar Vincent, Miss Nilsson's press representative, said that she would probably make an announcement of her decision on Sunday.

danish
FURNITURE
No Lower Prices This Side of Copenhagen
Daily till 7 p.m. Sat. till 5.
STAGE 331 E. 28 St. New York

States-Item 3/17/64

U.S. Probers Again Check Miss. Rolls

JACKSON, Miss. (AP) — Justice Department investigators today continued to check voter registration records in the office of Hinds County Circuit Clerk H. T. Ashford.

Ashford said he was told the probe was ordered by the Justice Department in Washington after a complaint was filed charging him with discrimination against Negro applicants.

STATES-ITEM 5/9/64

50 Jackson Garbagemen Protest Pay

JACKSON, Miss. (AP)—An es timated 50 Negro garbage col lectors marched on Jackson's City Hal ltoday in a demand for pay increases and improved working conditions.

Police blocked the marchers as they neared the city's Personnel Department. The group scattered when police appeared.

Frank Stewart, director of public works for the city, told other garbage collection employes, who did not take part in the mrach, to get back on the job.

He said, "We can talk this thing over later."

A petition, bearing 110 names printed on two sheets, was submitted to Sanitation Department officials during the weekend.

It asked salary increases from $1.05 an hour to $1.45 per hour and from one to two weeks annual vacation and all-weather clothing.

June 11, 1964

Mr. I. J. Berger
912 Park Street
Manitowoc, Wisconsin

Dear Mr. Berger:

The book collection for the Mississippi Freedom Community Centers is still going on. I would suggest that you send such materials to Miss Lois Chafee, care of COFO, 1017 Lynch Street, Jackson, Mississippi. They are especially interested in standard textbooks (in sets of ten or more where possible), Negro biography and history, and reference books such as dictionaries and encyclopedias. CORE is really not able to absorb shipping cost for large quantities of books. You would, then, perform a double service if you could persuade the sending group to cover shipping cost.

CORE is grateful for your generous offer. You may be sure any material we receive will be well used.

Sincerely,

Richard Haley

RH/ds

cc Lois Chafee

112 Park St
Manitowoc, Wis.
May 17 1964

Mr. Richard Haley
Assoc. Dir C.O.R.E.
2211 Dryades St
New Orleans, La.

Dear Mr Haley,

I note in the current issue of CORE-LATOR that community centers are being opened in Mississippi and that books are one of the things needed.

I have a large New Century dictionary in 2 volumes which might be useful somewhere on these projects. If you have a project needing this as well as other books & equipment/materials which may be available or surplus here, please advise. I will collect what I can and ship as you direct. Cordially

L.F. Berger

C O R E SOUTHERN REGIONAL OFFICE

2211 Dryades Street

New Orleans, Louisiana 70113

523-7204

August 21, 1964

Mr, Dick Jewett
1017 Lynch Street
Jackson, Mississippi

Dear Dick,

The enclosed letter is the first application I have received for the new task force. I worked with this young man briefly in New York and would be willing to recommend him.

I have received two other letters from interested parties but have no applications in this office to forward to these people. Would you plaese send some application blanks?

I am expecting to meet with you and Lois and some people from Louisiana this coming Saturday. I hope we have a good meeting.

Sincerely,

Richard Haley

RH/ds

Enclosures

File Jackson Off.

1017 Lynch Street
Jackson, Mississippi
October 22, 1964

Mr. Richard Haley
CORE
2211 Dryades Street
New Orleans, Louisiana

Dear Richard,

Follow-up on the phone coversation. Please ignore the classic COFO stationery and the classic typing.

Here is the car story. This comes from Americar Rental, located on South West Street in Jackson. We talked with Bob Thomas and Sam Rhodes; Rhodes the local manager and Thomas a travelling representative, I think. They are a new agency here and are anxious to cash in on the growing business. During the summer they kept talking about being able to do good business with us; this pitch is a part of their aggressive desire to expand the business. They have watched us and worked with us and are now working hard to give us something to fill our needs. I don't know why this long introduction. Just an interesting aside.

Details now. Based on 30,000 miles a year.

VW Sedan:	$1620 year's lease	$135 month's Lease
	384 year's gas	32 month's gas
	$2004 year's total	$167 month's total

Gas based on 25 miles per gallon.
Overage for mileage can be taken care of two different ways: we pick the method we want.

(1) $0.03 per mile for each mile, which is $300 per 10,000 miles or $30 per thousand miles.

(2) No mileage charge, but we agree to all repairs in excess of $204 per year ($17 per month).

VW Microbus:	$2040 year's lease	$170 month's lease
	384 year's gas	32 month's gas
	$2424 year's cost	$202 month's cost

Gas based on same 25 miles per gallon.
Overage for mileage handled same ways as above.

On present weekly rental rate (including the free 350 miles per week we presently get) a VW sedan costs $2792 per year ($2132 leasing @ $41 per week plus $660 for the 13,200 miles @ $0.05 per mile not covered under the free mileage rate). Our present rate is evidently higher as we are paying something like $1500 per month for four cars, so the mileage figure must be low.

The obvious conclusion is that by continuing as we have this summer we are at a minimum paying a third more per car than we need to ($2792 per year as opposed to $2040 per year). I think Mississippi learned from the summer experience--the first time it has ever had cars in any number, but it certainly has yet to prove it can work out a leased fleet. Cars treacherously and pointedly mark man's imperfectability--he can neither build them well nor treat them well--vis a vis the machine. But we can't avoid them if we are anxious for a program in the rural south in anything like the near future.

Other details. The men from Americar asked for local signatures on the papers. They felt it would be better to deal with a local representative of a national organization rather than to have to deal at long range with someone they can't talk with except by letter or the like. Evidently this summer they had to wait a matter of weeks for a $1400 bill to be paid; for a small outfit $1400 is a lot of money, and they imagine that they'll get paid more directly by dealing on the local level. I don't know what CORE policy is about who signs the leases, but there are several comments I have to make. First, bills will be paid either from New Orleans or from New York no matter who signs the leases. Secondly, with a leased arrangement the bill paying will be much easier--a certain amount of money regularly each month from the appropriate office. I imagine that the irregularity of the bill flow from Mississippi this summer added to the financial bind in New York made this fellow's difficulties understandable and rather typical.

The tentative outlay or distribution of cars and types suggested by Dave and myself would be as follows:

Canton	VW Bus
Harmony	VW Bus
Ofahoma	VW Sedan
Meridian	VW Bus
Clarke Co.	VW Bus

The two vehicles in Leake county can trade from time to time, the bus from first one side and then to the other, likewise the sedan or something of the sort.

The cars come equipped with heavy duty transmissions and clutches, radio and heater.

Dave and I both feel the staff is working well in the 4th district now and can reasonably be expected both to follow a maintenance schedule and to decide on what kind of measures should be taken if the schedule is not followed.

Details and discussion about the personnel business will follow in another letter in a day or two. My reports will begin right away, too. I don't think I have written a report since those last few weeks in Canton in the spring just before I came to Jackson. I'll have to get out my report-writing mind--an obscure sort of things but probably one that is of more value than I want to admit.

Sincerely,
Dick

file Jewett

October 19, 1964

Mr. Dick Jewett
1917 Lynch Street
Jackson, Mississippi

Dear Dick,

There are tow or three matters of concern.

One, I would like to keep up-to-date as much as possible on activities in your office. I'm becoming increasingly conscious of general program and of long-term goals, but have no idea what was done last week, last month or what current activities might be. To solve this problem, why not send me a periodic report of what's going on? As other field secretarys' reports are coming in weekly---more or less---I'd suggest you follow the same schedule.

The next item has to do with Task Force applications. One of the enclosures is a copy of a letter acknowledgment which I now send out to every person from whom we receive an application. However, we seem somewhat stymied as to the next step. It's pointless to invite these people to come down when we can't seem to find enough money to support the ones already working. But it seems to me you could introduce them to your idea of their supporting themselves for two months, as a kind of probationary period. The situation is also somewhat eased because several of them indicate they would like to begin in February. If you have any other ideas, I'd like to know of these, too.

I have written to Debbie Bernstein about her difficulty in getting placed in the ~~kkk~~ program. No doubt you are aware of this problem so I won't repeat it. At any rate I suggested that she speak to you about a recommendation, pro or con. I don't like the idea of keeping people "suspended" in a limbo of no decision.

Jerome Smith wrote today, indicating he may be able to be in New Orleans by October 25th. If his treatments have been successful he will be able to work steadily for several months at a time. If not---I don't know. Further discussion with him will clarify that, I imagine. Enough for now.

Sincerely,

Richard

Council Of Federated Organizations
1017 LYNCH STREET,
JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI

October 16, 1964

Mr. Richard Haley
CORE
2211 Dryades Street
New Orleans, Louisiana

Dear Richard Haley:

Completely by chance, I happened to be going through the various folders into which copies of the WATS reports are put, each folder designated for a specific person or COFO department. I had begun by gathering the reports earmarkef for me, but discovered those in such turnoil, I decided I'd better check out the rest also. One of the folders had a note on it to send copies to you.

The reports dated way back into September--many were missing, and I thermofaxed those from the originals in our files. I guess what happened was that no particular person has been assigned to collect and send them off to you.

So here are these, if you still have use for them. If you'd like me to continue sending them (on a more regular basis), I'd be perfectly happy to. Let me know.

I'm really sorry this happened.

Sincerely,
Debbie Bernstein
Debbie Bernstein
COFO Secretary

file Dennis

October 19, 1964

Mr. Dave Dennis
1017 Lynch Street
Jackson, Mississippi

Dear Dave,

The enclosures are those I mentioned on the telephone. I think they're self-explanatory so I won't comment further on them. On second thought, maybe I should make a comment on the southern "budget". There are several mistakes or omissions in this budget. This was no surprise to me: a budget, in the fiscal sense of the word, must be drawn up by someone skilled in analyzing fiscal procedures. I'm not. So this instrument is loosely constructed, figures a month as 4 weeks instead of 4 and 1/3, does not make adequate allowance for travel expense, omits southern office altogether(is that a Freudian slip?) However,the budget did what it was designed to do; approximate roughly the expense of carrying out the southern program.

In no area did I exercise my imagination more than in estimating expenditures for Mississippi. It is hard for me to determine the path of a dollar bill through the tortuous intertwinings of national CORE-COFO-4th district CORE. But this will have to be done. As a first step, I'd like you to tell me how much money you expect from national office per month, how much of it is directly assigned to COFO and how much you will retain for dealing directly with the projects. I shall also heckle the national office to come to grips with this, and related problems, also.

There are two small problems of personnel. Judy Nussbaum is, practically speaking, a derelict. She gets no support from anybody. Bill Yates speaks very highly of her, wants her retained on the staff. This is all well and good, but you are ~~xkx~~ already primed to recommend placement of from five to thirty more people in Mississippi. The other problem is Debbie Bernstein. Would you recommend that she be placed also? I get the impression that she, too, is doing a creditable job. (I am handling Judy's case, since she's right here, but remember(Bob Gore) that awkward situations ride on the tail of promises.

That's enough for one letter.

Richard

file Jackson

Mr. Haley--the carbon copy of this came out badly; I've gotten new carbon paper, and am sending you a typed copy.

C O P Y

training teachers visit Baton Rouge teachers to be Ben Brown

Oct. 31, 1964

Mr. Ben Brown
Southern Educational Project
CORE
38 Park Row, New York, New York

Dear Mr. Brown:

I discussed with Richard Haley the proposal this letter contains, and he suggested that I present it to you.

I have discovered that my role as Freedom School Coordinator in Mississippi is effective only according to the extent to which I can spend time in the field: that is, I can be of service to the Freedom Schools only when I come to a school and stay for 4 or 5 days, helping with the library, with the teaching, with the sweeping, etc. Otherwise, I am merely "Jackson," remote and not at all involved in the part of the schools that is really the learning and teaching part.

In order to fill this role, of course, I need a vehicle, so I can get from place to place in the state and still get back to wherever my mail comes, which now is Jackson: a lot of the work remains correspondence and book distribution, and writing. But in discussion with Dave Dennis and Dick Jewett, it became clear that I probably could be based in a Freedom School rather than in Jackson, and thus absolutely associate my function with the immediate operation of a school. I could train teachers, speak to newsmen, etc., much better from a school than from the Jackson office. For that purpose what I would need would be a panel truck, so I could set up a kind of office there for that part of my work, and shelves, and have space for cartons of books and a guitar. My travelling companion, after January 1, will be a Mrs. Eva Zirker, a dancer from Los Angeles, who will be teaching African dancing to the teachers and students while I do other things in each school. Before that, Lois Chaffee and I will probably work something out together; but it is not to be a Freedom School and Community Center joint project, even though the two operations are quite integral: I will really need the truck constantly, as a real mobile state Freedom School.

Can you let me know, at this address, as soon as possible, of your reaction to my proposal?

Yours for freedom

etc. Liz Fusco

366-1641

enclosed the enclosed

I've written a new piece about the learning of democracy in the Freedom Schools, which may interest you. It should be ready in a few days.

Liz

November 13, 1964

Mr. Dick Jewett
1017 Lynch Street
Jackson, Mississippi

Dear Dick,

I would like to know the exact number of people who are going to attend the staff conference. Please give the names, sex and race. Also indicate which ones were examined by the doctor at Togaloo last summer. Send a carbon copy of your letter to Doctor Dave Levine, 10 West 15th Street, New York City 11, New York. This is very improtant please get this information at once. Thanks.

Sincerely,

Richard Haley
Southern Director

RH/ds

file Jackson

November 20, 1964

Mr. Dick Jewett
1017 Lynch Street
Jackson, Mississippi

Dear Dick,

This letter is just an elaboration of our conversation this morning. I think the best way for me to get at more of facts that I desire would be to present a list of questions. The list appears below. All questions relate to the fourth district unless otherwise specified.

What are the present plans of operation for :

A. Political programs
B. Freedom Schools
C. Community Centers
D. A Mississippi Student Union both on a district level and for ea ch project? These plans would likely include such questions as, What should we be doing? What are personnel and equipment needs--or excess? What is your estimate of minimum monthly expenditures on each project? What specific goal (s) for what chronological period? What are the most important obstructions? What additional comments would you make?

2. Locate each of the Freedom Schools; name the staff; describe (briefly, of course) its activities.

3. Do the same for the Community Centers.

4. What are the next projects (counties, etc.) contemplated.

5. What is your feeling about CORE SNCC relations in the Jackson office? In the district as a whole?

6. What legal cases involving CORE people are presently pending in or outside the district (I do not refer to class actions)?

7. What CORE persons are presently in jail or under indictment? Please differentiate.

8. How much CORE money, if any, is presently tied up in outstanding bonds? I do not refer to fees for bondsmen or to cases prior to the past summer.

9. What are the next legal actions contemplated?

10. Locate all volunteers; give names.

11. Identify the cars now in use, locate them, name the person responsible for each. Name the persons who have automobile credit cards. How much do we pay monthly on rental or lease?

12. Identify the person s who have telephone credit cards.

13. Comment on the effectiveness of the Watts line in Jackson as far as CORE PR is concerned.

14. How much money has the Jackson office received from the National Office since September 1st? Please give dates and such other break down as may clarify the use of the money.

15. Comment on the need for standardising bookkeeping procedures which you mentioned in your recent letter to Marv Rich.

There are likely some other items which you regard as important that have been omitted from this " questionnaire". By all means include these. I would like to have this as soon as possible . If some of the items are hard to answer or require considerable time, then why not send the first part and follow it up with the remainder when you are able to get that information.

Sincerely,

Richard Haley
CORE Southern Director

RH/vjr

Jackson

COFO
1017 Lynch St.
Jackson, Mississippi

29 NOV 64

CORE
Staff Director
38 Park Row
New York, 38, N.Y.

Sir:

After trying to solve the problem of Houston Howard here locally in Jackson - and failing, I am forced to write to you.

For quite a long time now, starting sometime during the summer project, Houston Howard, a staff worker for CORE who comes from Jackson, has been acting in a manner best described as that of a hoodlum or juvinile delinquent. He has struck several people including myself, stolen items from packages coming to COFO in Jackson, created severe racial tensions and crises in the office, threatened several people including myself with violence if we did not obey him, and generally being one of our greatest problems. Unfortuneately, there are some local young men - several of whom are Houstons' class mates - who also have acted in this same manner, several times in bunches or gangs including Houston. However, this "hoodlum problem" does not excuse the actions of Mr. Howard. In fact, he must bear some of the responsibility of them. He has refused to assist in solving such problems, but instead will make remarks such as "All you white folks should get the hell out anyway." We had to close the Jackson office (state headquaters of COFO) for one week recently, due in part to this hoodlum problem. Now, I am Office Manager, until the COFO meeting the 4-6 in Hattiesburg. Houston is making my job impossible. He disrupts the office regularly, seems to have no responsible work to do, and hangs around looking for trouble. As a rehabilitation technique, Jesse Morris, former office manager, tried putting Houston on as Book keeper, but soon afterwards, Houston threw down the relevant keys on the office floor with some epithet and so I have just kept the keys and have told him he was no longer to perform any bookkeeping functions. Mat Suarez concurred in this action. Unfortuneately, this exact same problem has come up several times and more unfortuneately, both Dave Dennis and Dick Jewett have both refused to handle the problem. However, CORE must remove Houston Howard from this office so that we can carry on our work here. This must be done immediately.

Fraternally,

R Hunter Morey

cc: New Orleans CORE
Dick Jewett

R. Hunter Morey
Jackson Manager

December 10, 1964

Mr. Richard Jewett
c/o Mr. David Dennis
1129 Maple Street, Apt. 8D
Jackson, Mississippi

Dear Dick:

I'm still a little woozy from the broken nose, so this will not be as comprehensive as I would like, but I do think there are some things which must be said about COFO and particularly about our operation.

Somewhere there must be an evaluative decision-making authority. Particularly, someone must be in authority and must in fact say "no" from time to time. We cannot do everything we would like to do, nor can we do everything that is suggested. We must evaluate our experience and do what seems to be useful, and certainly we must consider our resources. I understand from remarks made when I was in Mississippi that we have opened a project in Quitman -- this at a time when we and COFO are broke. We are not now paying our bills in Mississippi and every project is crying that we have been false in our obligations to them. To take on new obligations at this time is to open ourselves up to further justified criticism from people in the field. Every project that reported seemed to feel that they had gotten lies from the Jackson office. This was, in part, because the Jackson office could not fulfill the obligations they had undertaken.

We cannot let ourselves do the same thing. You must have the strength to say no. This applies to us also. Certainly, we should never have agreed to bring seventeen additional people into Mississippi in November. The need for funds to pay for automobile, telephone and general expenseshas inhibited the functioning of various projects. Nor can we expect a tremendous increase in fund raising. We cannot expect that the North

will continue to contribute at the emotional peak of last summer. It is unrealistic to expect this, and it would be a delusion. In fact, there has been a significant drying up of new funds. We have increased fund raising to some extent, but not enough to cover the Mississippi project. This means that there is a deficit which will have to come from the normal CORE budget. At this time and for some months to come this will be very difficult, requiring sacrifices of everyone. People in the field live in day-to-day danger. They should not live in false hopes as well. This is why I write as strongly as I do. I do believe we shall overcome.

Sincerely yours,

Marvin Rich, Director
Community Relations

/b

cc: Dave Dennis
James Farmer
Richard Haley
James McCain
George Wiley

Jackson
Attach to my
last letter to Dick

1714 Everett Avenue
Jackson, Mississippi
January 9, 1965

CORE Southern Office
2209 Dryades Street
New Orleans, La. 70113

Dear Richard,

Sorry about the confusion on the meeting in Atlanta. It is quite possible that on the phone I didn't tell you enough about it to make clear what was going on, and for that I'm sorry. It's not worth your getting all hot and bothered about though, so here is the explanation in a little more detail now.

One or two SNCC people are particularly interested in some Black Belt sense--the exact nature of the sense is of course unclear. SNCC is presently in the middle of a transition period, and while in it there is no clear course internally about how to go about discussing problems and how to decide in which direction to move.

Those people interested in the Black Belt thing recognize the SNCC internal problems but are interested in moving ahead if possible. So they decided to call a very exploratory meeting with an unofficial group of people--just sit and talk, trade ideas and thoughts, see if some procedure about how to proceed could come out of the meeting. In this framework they thought of including people who were familiar with SNCC, but they didn't want to limit it to just SNCC if others might have something to contribute later in the Black Belt sense. They thought of Dave of me because they knew us and what we knew. They suggested that perhaps Dave knew of someone else in La. or elsewhere in the south connected with a CORE project who might be a good person to attend. But it was all very informal, very unofficial.

As it turns out I'm writing this letter as the meeting is going on in Atlanta. The nature of the meeting changed as it developed. Probably the meeting will discuss the Black Belt only incidentally: emphasis will be placed on these SNCC internal problems and how to get out of them. In that framework no CORE people are welcome anyway, so I have cancelled my trip there.

This sense of informality when needed and the idea of gathering together people known to each other are very common and frequently used techniques. I think that given SNCC's problems an informal meeting was the only possible type of meeting. Yet a great deal might have come out of even that.

If we want to address ourselves to the question of why the SNCC people didn't look to include the CORE Southern Office in the form of you, then that's another question, andperhaps we should discuss that. But in the framework of the meeting I think the people called and the reason for their being called are clear, and you should rather be thankful that there is enough rapport established so that there is at least a desire on the part of some to include CORE people right from the start and not to develop separate lines and try to coordinate later when it is harder.

Think this over. If it is not clear or if there are further questions, please write. I think the incident should have been met with some glee rather than with anger. Yours, Dick

Jackson

1714 Everett Avenue
Jackson, Mississippi
January 7, 1965

Dear Jim,

Below is a list of present paid staff workers in Mississippi:

Jewett	Fusco	Morse
Chaffee	Duncan	Watts, Sandra
Raymond	Shupenko	Smith, George
Devire	Glenn	Tinsley
Chinn	Coiman	Schiffman
Hewitt	Wright, Martha	Weinberger, Eric
Collier	Wright, Frank	
Bosley	Wright, Judy	

The following people have been or should be removed from the payroll:

Morton — Weinberger, Elaine — Watts, Joe Lee
Freeman — Ponder -- leaving to go to school in the north
Howard — Henderson -- leaving to return home

I think that Eric Morton's name was actually removed through a misunderstanding, and I think that he should still be on if he is planning to actually come back to the state.

The staff at the last district meeting agreed to a cut in pay with the stipulation that the money saved be used to pay Mississippi project expenses. It was agreed that there would be exceptions to the pay cut, those exceptions to be worked out on an individual basis. The following people should have their salary cut to $10 a week:

Chaffee	Duncan	Wright, Martha	Weinberger, Eric
Raymond	Shupenko	Morse	Schiffman
Bosley	Glenn	Tinsley	
Fusco	Coiman	Watts, Sandra	

That leaves 14 times $15 equals $210 a week to meet expenses. I would like to split the money in some way--use part of it to pay bills that come to the national office and use part of it to pay bills here in Mississippi. For instance we still have several good workers on subsistence here, and we have some local project back bills. Perhaps you can tell me how this splitting of the money might be worked out or else you can turn the letter over to the proper person to take care of that aspect of it.

One final note. I realize the financial bind of the national organization, but having just discovered that I am about to become a father I find myself thinking in financial terms, too. I think I was hired on a probationary period. Would you please send details on when the probation ends and on what the whole financial structure is as far as pay for field secretaries. Also please send me information on the union, medical benefits, credit union, and whatever other information of this sort you have. Many thanks.

Yours,

Dick Jewett

cc: Rich
Haley

Jackson

1714 Everett Avenue
Jackson, Mississippi
January 9, 1965

Mr. Richard Haley
CORE, etc.

Dear Dick,

I have a letter from Dick Tinsley as he makes his way across the country on this fund-raising tour. He's doing a lot of stuff, and I hope that it will produce at least a little money.

He talked with Reuben Phillips of the Apollo Theatre, and the theatre is available for a fund-raising deal. He had to leave before anything could be worked out, so he asked me to contact either you or Marv Rich about carrying on. Reuben can be contacted at either LO 9-1888 or LO 9-1889 (99Hillside 1½H).

Tinsley also says "He (Reuben) seems to think that the local CORE chapters have fallen behind in their fund raising because of their choice of talent. I agree fully. N.Y. is so full of top talent that mediocre entertainment will not draw. Reuben has personal contact with the cream of the crop, and he suggested that a top official of CORE approach some of these people and/or refer them to [redacted] him."

I'm not sure what the follow-up is on this, but I turn it over to you. Let me know what works out if you can.

Thanks,

Dick

Mr. of C. Jackson

CORE SOUTHERN OFFICE
2209 Dryades Street
New Orleans, Louisiana 70113

January 13, 1965

Mr. Reuben Phillips
99 Hillside 12 H
New York, New York

Dear Reuben,

Richard Tinsley of our Mississippi staff wrote of having talked to you during the Christmas holidays. He relayed on to us your suggestion that someone from CORE spend some time with you in discussing the potential for lining up ruraly top-draw talent in the New York area.

First of all, thanks very much for the suggestion. As you may have already guessed long ago, aggressive public relations is not my ferte. I have thought numerous times of talking to you about using your talent and contacts for CORE's benefit; I could never quite bring myself to do this, perhaps because it seems a little like taking advantage of friendship.

However, poor as CORE is now, I will take advantage of motherhood mugh less friendship--if I felt it could help the organization. I say all that to say this: I will be in New York Saturday through Tuesday, January 16th--20th. I'd like to talk to you about yout ideas of what can be accomplished, and what is the best way to go about it. I will telephone you at home Saturday at 1 p.m. to see if we can set up an appointment convenient to you. Hope we can do this because it will be very pleasant to have another chance just for chating.

Sincerely,

Richard Haley
CORE Southern Director

RH/vjj

cc: Dick Jewett

Jackson

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT
M. Carl Holman
Information Office
U.S. Commission on Civil Rights
Washington, D.C. 20425

Phone: 382-1228

FOR RELEASE - A.M. THURSDAY
JANUARY 7, 1965

WASHINGTON, D.C. --The U.S. Commission on Civil Rights announced today that it will hold a hearing in Jackson, Mississippi, beginning February 10, 1965. The Commission will hear testimony concerning denials of voting rights to the State's Negro citizens and discrimination in the administration of justice.

In accordance with the statute governing the Commission's hearings, the hearing in Jackson will begin with an executive session during which persons who may be defamed, degraded or incriminated by testimony to be presented at the public session will have an opportunity to be heard. The public session of the hearing, which will follow the executive session, is expected to begin February 16, 1965.

In 1960 and 1961 the Commission staff conducted field investigations in Mississippi. The 1961 Commission Report brought to the attention of the President and the Congress serious questions concerning the civil rights status of Mississippi's Negro citizens. A hearing scheduled in Mississippi in 1962 was postponed at the request of the U.S. Attorney General. In 1963 the Commission, in a special report, found that there had been "open and flagrant violation of constitutional rights in Mississippi."

Since that time the Commission has conducted further field investigations and has continued to receive reports of voting denials, and of serious and unredressed incidents of violence principally against Negroes. More recently, some indications of progress, particularly in the area of law enforcement, have come to the attention of the Commission.

In conducting the hearing, the Commission will avoid interference with any criminal or civil proceeding in the State.

Today, Dr. John A. Hannah, Chairman of the Commission, issued the following statement:

"The Commission's purpose in holding this hearing is to obtain a balanced picture of the status of civil rights in Mississippi. The Commission is not a prosecuting agency; it cannot and does not seek to punish anyone. Our job is to find the facts and to report them to the President and Congress, with recommendations for any corrective action which seems necessary. To this end, the Commission intends to call a broad range of witnesses, so that all the facts pertaining to civil rights problems in the State may be appraised objectively and in context. Information collected at the hearing will be evaluated in the Commission's report to the President and Congress in accordance with the Commission's responsibilities. The Commission also hopes that a hearing conducted in this manner will assist responsible Mississippians in finding solutions to the problems in their State."

Since its establishment in 1957, the Commission has held hearings in Georgia, Alabama, Louisiana, Illinois, Michigan, California, Arizona, New Jersey, Tennessee, Indiana and Washington, D.C.

Members of the Commission are: John A. Hannah, President of Michigan State University, Chairman; Eugene C. Patterson, Editor, The Atlanta Constitution, Vice-Chairman; Mrs. Frankie Muse Freeman, Associate General Counsel, St. Louis Housing and Land Clearance Authorities; Erwin N. Griswold, Dean, Harvard University School of Law; Reverend Theodore M. Hesburgh, C.S.C., President, Notre Dame University; and Robert S. Rankin, Department of Political Science, Duke University.

SRO
Ed Jackson

Richard Jewett

Southern Office
2209 Dryades St.
New Orleans, La. 70113

January 6, 1965

Dear Dick,

Most of the people who went home for the holidays will be back soon. I wrote to each of them at their home addresses to tell them various things including the fact that they are to report all their fund raising to you. They are to let you know (regardless of where they sent the actual money) how much they raised, the names, addresses and organizations of the people who helped, and where they sent the money.

It is very important that both you and this office have that information. Nothing is quite so damaging as to have people from the north inquire about their contribution when no one but a few people on the local project know about it. It is also important that all the contributions be acknowledged from within the state - verifies that the money got there and the direct communication from Mississippi has a good effect on the giver. I would suggest that as you talk to people to get their reports you make sure that they have or will have the project the contribution.

There is another important reason why you should know how much money has come in. I explained to all of them and I believe they understand it, that their project can not necessarily keep and spend all the money they raise, for instance Leake and Rankin couldn't send anybody home. Therefore you should have a hand in how the money is spent by presenting the needs of the 4th district as a whole.

We need to account to the national office on any money that has been raised so we need a report from you. Could you send us something by the end of next week - the 15th - on what you have found out up to then.

Regards,

Ed Hollander

Bill Curtis wrote that he was coming back from Chicago from the 27th to 30th (December) to Clarksdale to attend Mark Weiss's Accelerated Interaction session but was then going to go back to Chicago until about Jan. 22 when he would come to New Orleans for the staff meeting.

I don't think I mentioned before that some of the people on the Meridian project think that George Smith might be a good project director when Preston leaves.

CORE SOUTHERN OFFICE
2209 Dryades Street
New Orleans, Louisiana 70113
(ac504/523-7204)

January 13, 1965

Mr. Richard Jewett
1714 Everett Avenue
Jackson, Mississippi

Dear Dick,

I like your idea of reports discussing issues, policies and the like. It also seems to me that your suggestion of wider distribution is good; NAC members, especially, complain they are required to discuss basic problems with little or no background. By all means let's explore both these proposals.

At the same time we must, however regrettably, establish at least a minimal system. The routine semi-monthly report serves as a record of time, place and nature of operations, if nothing else. This is necessary.

Enough for that. There is some question, at the project-pruning level, about the effectiveness of Leake County, with two people operating separately, and Rankin County with two people just beginning. Scott County will likely be questioned(I understand someone is going there also). One question is, "How soon will one--- or each---of these projects set up another office with attendant expenses?" Another question, "Why not combine the first two groups in the single project with most potential, and hold up on Scott County?

Presently I can't answer these questions; they require a more detailed knowledge of the projects than I have. You can provide that knowledge, together with an estimated budget and an evaluation of the elements involved. This is both important and urgent.

I sent in a "drop-slip" on Alma Bosley some time ago, but nothing on Elaine Weinberger. What of these cases? Eric Morton is still in New York, I understand. We haven't heard from him since Christmas.

I take it that COFO is actively involved in securing witnesses both for the Civil Rights hearing February 10 and for testimony re the Congressional challenge. You must be busy. Take care.

Sincerely,

Richard Haley
CORE Southern Office

Jackson

1714 Everett Avenue
Jackson, Mississippi
January 10, 1965

Mr. Richard Haley
CORE, etc.

Dear Richard,

It has been a while since I last sent you a report of the Mississippi goings-on. As it turns out the weekly format of reports is not viable for me. Giving you the physical outlines of what I do from week to week accounts for some of my time, but it does not get at the heart of what is going on. I propose not to write weekly. Rather I propose to write as the time to write arises--as one phase or another of the Mississippi operation jells. I'm not sure that it will work out well, but I think that it will be more meaningful than a weekly report of project visitations and the like.

Reports from the various projects come to you as they are written. If you have not been getting them or do not get them, then let me know, and I'll arrange to see that you do get them. My reports should go well beyond these project reports. Mississippi, thanks to COFO, has a state-wide sense and problems at a state and national level that need to be dealt with. My reports should discuss these as well as bring out important factors or feelings in the CORE area of the state.

I'm thinking of giving the reports wider distribution if they turn out to be at all inclusive and more informative than just a normal project report. It seems a waste to just give the information to you and the national office. Perhaps the NAC as a starter ought to get the reports. I wonder if there is anybody else who ought to share in them.

I'm not sure how this will all work out, but I'd like to try it for a while and see how it goes. On your end keep writing and asking questions; I'll probably be unclear here sometimes just out of different perspective.

The mechanics of operating the finances, keeping track of the cars, credit cards, etc.. I expect we can take care of separately with very little trouble. That should be done in letters and in phone calls as needed. Much of that by now is clear here.

I've written a first draft of a report here in the style that I want to use. The report attempts to answer some of the questions in your November 20 letter, but it goes way beyond some of the questions. The minutiae of cars, credit cards, etc. are left out; I'll send that on to you as soon as my records here are complete.

Yours,
Dick
Richard Jewett

Liz Fusco
c/o Blankenhill
General Delivery
Mayersville, Miss.

Jackson, Miss

Feb. 22, [1965]

Dear Richard -

The book situation, except for our communication, with Bob Gottlieb & Random House by Herschel Kamenshy, c/o Harris, Box 30, Indianola, Miss. We're not ordering any new books because we haven't had any money for a long time. Nor are we ordering text supplies for the same reason. I have less than $90.00 in the Freedom School account & out of that and my own check I travel, eat, & pay for gas in the counties where I'm working & in 30 or 45 other Freedom Schools. I use my own check till that runs out. Gas is the biggest expense in my work because getting around to the 5 Freedom Schools presently operating (certainly by the 6th they should) in Issaquena & Sharkey counties where the kids are boycotting their school takes a lot of gas. I eat about one meal a day and pay what I can when I stay (about $5 a week) because gas expenses come first. We have really no books except for what little was left in the Jackson office. Got Freedom School & Mississippi. We need Canon film repair machine & typewriter. I'll write a press release on upon such for about between October & February. But I can't say that I'll report twice a month. I can't work that way. I'll talk to Rich, or I've been

Jackson, Miss

Feb. 22, [1965]

Dear Richard-

The book situation, except for any communication with Bob Gottlieb, is being handled by Hershel Kennedy, c/o Harris Box 30, Indianola, Miss. We're not ordering any new books because we haven't had any money for a long time. Nor are we ordering and recycling for the same reason. I have less than $90.00 in the Freedom School account & out of that and my cost check I travel, eat, & pay for gas in the counties where I'm working & in 30 or 45 other Freedom Schools. I use my core check till that runs out. Gas is the biggest expense in my work because getting around to the 5 Freedom Schools presently operating (certainly by the bid. thereabouts) in Issaquena & Sharkey counties where the kids are boycotting their school takes a lot of gas. I eat about one meal a day and pay what I can when I stay (about $5 a week) because gas expenses come first. We have really no books except for what little was left in the Jackson office. But Freedom School is going on. We need cars & car repair money & gas money. I'll write a piece each week or so asking for about between October & February. But I can't say that I'll report twice a month. I can't work that way. I'll talk to Dick in D.C. because I'm doing about what I see happening. But I can't write progress reports, because "progress" is irrelevant to what's happening. I'm not travelling any more: I'm working in Issaquena & Sharkey until I feel what I almost feel right now, that I'm not needed for those Freedom Schools. Then I'm going to Greenwood just to work, with the intention of spending one day a week each in Clarksdale & Clarksdale,

Liz Fusco
c/o Blackwell
General Delivery
Marysville, Miss.

working with MSU.

So communication in Jackson will know more about what's happening in Freedom Schools + MSU all over the state than I will. This is not abdication; it is just, finally, acknowledgement that I have never had command of that information. And I've learned more in the last 2 weeks from the kids in these rural town, than I learned in 5 months in Jackson.

Sorry I didn't make it to New Orleans. The problem was getting used clothing down in the face of Hardy's refusal to rent a car to civil rights workers (in Indiana!), and a feeling that what I needed in returning to Mississippi was not a meeting of any kind, but work. I feel healthier in Mississippi than I've felt since I was in Sunflower County last summer — which is to say that I'm not an administrator but a field worker. I'll be glad to communicate what state wide issues I have, but as to inventory type of things, they do not exist, nor would it be possible to compile them if they did.

Hold on for the piece about October-February — the pieces in my mind now for over a month, but isn't quite right yet.

Freedom,

Liz

P.S. If you want to update about Freedom Schools, write the kids — the Freedom School, General Delivery, c/o Blackwell, Hazlehurst, Miss.

CORE SOUTHERN OFFICE
2209 Dryades Street
New Orleans, Louisiana 70113

February 15, 1965

Mrs. Elizabeth Fusco
COFO
1017 Lynch Street
Jackson, Mississippi

Dear Liz,

I received from Ed the substance of your telephone conversation with him. There are a few things to say about that, and some other things to be brought out also. Let's get to the point of books first.

I talked to Mr. Gottlieb last week in New York. He of course said that he is already in communication with you, and that you have a very satisfactory working arrangement as far as books are concerned. Consequently I leave that matter completely in your hands, with the request that you keep this office informed of the book orders that you make and receive and the places where you distribute them. As things stand presently, I simply don't know any of the facts about this item of our program.

More than that, I don't know what you have been doing for some several months now. This is not at all a matter of whether I have confidence in your work; there is no question on that point---I do. But it's also part of my job to know what is going on in the southern region, at least in our major activities. Therefore I'd like for you to draw up a rather comprehensive report covering the period from, let's say, October through January. Later this month I would like to get a similar report from the period of your return to February 25. After that I would like to get reports on the 10th and 25th of the month. Each report will include: 1. the nature of job (s) being done 2. relation of job (s) to the general educational program. 3. places visited; accomplishments of visits; 4. problems observed and suggested solutions; 5. expense of travel, food and housing during such visits; 6. other pertinent factors.

I don't think it's necessary to attempt any extended discussion of the function of the southern office or the relationshio of CORE to COFO. In both cases the fundamental point isthat we are trying to systematize procedures. If "system" proves more a curse than a blessing, then undoubtedly we will eventually remove system and the organizations and officies for which system is the Raison D'etre. I mention these things because you demonstrate some difficulties in accommodating yourself to some of the routine task relating to yourself and CORE. I think these can be resolved easily enough as long as communication is maintained. One other point: CORE has given to Dick Jewett the responsibility for coordinating the work in the fourth district. The reports I mentioned above, for example, should be sent

to Dick Jewett. He is not in a position to deal with other districts, nor is CORE.

I think that I have covered the major points mentioned in Ed's resuma OF HIS conversation with you. If there is anything further please let me know.

Sincerely,

Richard Haley
CORE Southern Director

RH/vjj

CORE SOUTHERN OFFICE
2209 Dryades Street
New Orleans, Louisiana 70113

February 25, 1965

Mr. Richard Jewett
1017 Lynch Street
Jackson, Mississippi

Dear Dick:

There are numerous cases where Task Force workers use the money from their subsistence to take care of transportation or of office supplies or something of that sort. These expenditures should be reimbursed, and will be if the persons in question will submit a report (with receipts whereever possible) for these expenditures. I wish you would pass that information on to the Task Force workers.

Sincerely,

Richard Haley
CORE Southern Director

RH/vjj

Just

master

1708 Everett
Jackson, Miss
March 17, 1965

Dear Richard-

Sorry this is late - I was still thinking that checks were sent from N.Y. If Marvin Rich & Dave Colmen's names are on them, how do they come from New Orleans?

Anyway, please restore Cathy Lucido's & my check to the original amount. I'm asking this because we do not live on a CORE project & we have to pay our own living expenses. I am in

favor of the act, I would get along without it. I would. But we have to maintain a home in Jackson - we even have dependents - people who don't have any way to live. Also, I need some cash for travelling and [illegible] the act.

I'm sorry I couldn't find you to speak about the transfer. I have since found that, with the OEO office in even greater chaos than it was. They are no longer certain that they need a part time worker in a Jackson office.

...would. ...Jackson ...

The CFO office is not in Jackson. That complicates things for them. Moreover, even if they do have someone in their office there stories about $50-100 week salaries are ridiculous. So far their office personel has been volunteers. They might pay me a few dollars but nothing significant. So, I think I'll stick with COPE as long as I'm around. In fact I feel very sorry for my momentary wavering. I was tempted I guess, by the false

Dairns ? middle class
society or something.
I'm still looking for a new
job, or more precisely, a
new definition of my
present job so I would still
like to talk with you
if you come through
again.

Yours truly,

Lois.

March 22, 1965

Alvin Bronstein, Esq.
L.C.D.C.
603 North Farish Street
Jackson, Miss. 39202

Dear Al,

Thank you for the clipping concerning the Picayune School Board bond. I take it that this is in a very early stage and that the bond has not yet been approved. Check me as to whether you think we should wait until after the voters have approved the bond before we begin the action to restrain the issuance.

Theoretically, I suppose, the voters may vote down the bond and therefore action at this time would be premature legally.

We are, however, watching very carefully any bonds that are coming up in the state of Mississippi.

If all goes well, the complaint you have will be filed against St. Tammany Parish in Louisiana in the next week. We hope to file the complaint in Shreveport within a few weeks thereafter.

Sincerely,

Carl Rachlin
General Counsel

cc: Collins, Douglas & Elie
Richard Haley
David Dennis
Henry Schwarzschild

CR:hdl

CORE Southern Regional Office
2209 Dryades Street
New Orleans, Louisiana

April 26, 1965

Miss Lois Chaffee
1708 Everett
Jackson, Mississippi

Dear Lois,

The first first words in your letter, many weeks ago, were "Sorry this is late." A very appropriate beginning for this letter; whatever else it may be, it is certainly late.

The burden of my discourse can be dispensed with in a few words--what are your plans for the summer? I got the impression from our last conversation that you are pretty free and disengaged occupationally, but were looking forward to resuming study this summer. Since so much time has passed, you must refresh my mind on this. There is the likelihood we could use you in Louisiana since we are beefing up the staff over in that area. Please let me know as soon as possible.

The payroll confusion is still confusion, and likely to remain confusion for some time yet to come.

Sincerely,

Richard Haley
CORE Southern Director

RH/gjm

CORE SOUTHERN OFFICE
2209 Dryades Street
New Orleans, Louisiana 70113

April 28, 1965

Mr. Richard Jewett
1714 Everett Avenue
Jackson, Mississippi

Dear Dick:

Following are some comments and reactions to the proposals you sent recently.

The proposed use of highly trained organizers is a good one, but not without its own disadvantages. Such a person will soon complain, I believe, of too large an area for "in depth" activity. In fact, I would suppose this was one reason for creation of the task force: lack of resident personnel. So,in a sense we would be going back where we started some years ago.

Admittedly this going back would not be a complete return. The old CORE traveling field secretary was not necessarily a highly trained specialist; he was more likely to be someone with a liberal education--in civil rights as well as in academics. But a specialist can move no faster, physically, than a journeyman; eventually CORE would be back to the point of reinstituting some kind of task force for the specialist to advise and supervise.

Moreover, I feel the task force offers a learning experience that our young collegiate idealists had just better get. Academics notwithstanding, they're in need of seeing raw southern country life, and Negro life, and reviewing their own ideas about human relations. There is a better chance of their learning this on the task force than any place else, I think.

Your sheet on "The New Movement in Mississippi" generally implies a great deal more meaningful activity in that state than I realized. It would help to learn more about it. I feel increasingly ignorant when Mississippi becomes the subject of discussion--in or out of CORE.

I agree there should be a district office. I would also suggest you attempt to keep close tab on local reaction to the mailing you suggest. That is, will they be used? The Southern Office has not much success via correspondence.

I also agree that political education is an important activity in the movement. Your proposed outline is succinct and will undoubtedly prove useful. I

I am also convinced that the apotheosis of the ballot lays splendid groundwork for the things you hope to avoid; misuse of the vote, etc. I suggest that much time also should be given to learning the maze of federal programs--something that requires communication organization in a different,

more sustained way than is the case for politics.

Moreover, I question the wisdom of this great political emphasis in its influence on our staff. They should feel no more than local residents that the vote--or political organization-- will provide the answers to all the community's problems.

In summary: 1) I look forward to staff conferences centered on the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Voting Bill of 1965 and community organization, respectively; 2) I do not agree with the proposal of early removal of the task force; 3) I agree with the need for highly trained organizers. Certainly present staff should be given first opportunity to receive such; 4) a short, dry chuckle for the suggestion that "CORE put money into local hands" since CORE's own hands are empty; 5) the treatment on staff education should prove valuable.

Now it remains for us to see how to remove these ideas from paper to action.

Sincerely,

Richard Haley
CORE Southern Director

RH/gjm

CORE SOUTHERN OFFICE
2209 Dryades Street
New Orleans, Louisiana 70113

April 5, 1965

Mr. Richard Jewett
1714 Everett Avenue
Jackson, Mississippi

Dear Dick,

Just a few questions not yet clear. I would like to get clear once more on the work of Cathy Lucido---where is she, what is she doing, do you get any reports from her? I understand from Lois Chaffee that she herself is more or less "at liberty". I think she would probably fit well in the Baton Rouge office; it is very much in need of a competent all around person who would be able to be in the office full time.

Lois wpote me that she and Cathy would have to be returned to full $25.00 weekly because of the expense of maintaining the freedom house. I sent in the request to National Office that she, Cathy and Mary Ann Shupenko be resotred their original amount. Which reminds me I have never received the signed authorizations from you of which we spoke some time ago. Until these papers are in National Office I expect continuing small confusions about this matter. More seriously, if various individulas begin to repent their impulsive generosity we may eventually be faced with the choice of 1. refusing to restore the $25.00 stipend 2. dropping the bolunteers lately added, or 3, accepting the increase budgetary expenditures as a fait accompli.

Finally I would like a report from you on Leake county and its potential. The last we received from Theodis Hewitt was a recommendation that the five communities in the county be assigned a total of 29 staff people and ten cars. This is completely out of line with the sort of organization and budgeting we have been doing of late; nevertheless, I don't won't to simply brush the report aside as fantastic without some on the spot observation.

I have not yet had time to look at the proposals you sent down. I will do so as early as possible and "feed back."

Sincerely,

Richard Haley
CORE Southern Director

RH/vjj

CORE SOUTHERN OFFICE
2209 Dryades Street
New Orleans, Louisiana 70113

April 28, 1965

Mr. Richard Jewett
1714 Everett Avenue
Jackson, Mississippi

Dear Dick:

I feel very upset that our communication is so infrequent. The telephone is no good method; it's too expensive and provides no record. I'd like to be in Mississippi more often, but there is just too much work here for me to get away mudh.

Please bring me up to date on the Mississippi scene, in writing.

We received ten gasoline credit cards from the National Office yesterday. Please let me know the names of people in Mississippi who will be using these cards. In addition to the cards, a contract form is enclosed also. Each card user must fill in and sign the contract, an agreement between the card holder and CORE as to the use of the card. When I receive the names from you I will send the cards directly to the persons who are to use them.

Enclosed is a list of names of Mississippi people as they appear on the payroll. I assume that the payroll as it is now set up is satisfactory to the Mississippi staff. I must point out that over a month ago I requested that payroll authorization forms be signed by individuals so that we would have in writing their permission to divert part of their salary to other people. I have never received these completed forms.

Whatever happened to those trousers from Canton?

Sincerely,

Richard Haley

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New Orleans, Louisiana

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Sincerely,

Richard Haley
CORE Southern Director

RH/gjm

Jackson COFO

COFO NEWS
BOX 1268
JACKSON, MISS.

ASCS ELECTIONS TO BE BOYCOTTED BY MADISON COUNTY NEGROES

Canton, Miss. May 2, 1965. Negro farmers in this central Mississippi area plan to boycott re-elections planned by the U.S. Department of Agriculture this Tuesday.

Elections last Dec. 4 were declared void in two of eight communities in Madison county after Negroes flooded the Agriculture Department with complaints. The elections, which were state-wide, were conducted by the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service. The elections are considered important to cotton farmers because they determine how much land acreage for cotton planting will be alloted to every farmer in the county.

Otha Williams, president of the Madison County Farmers' League said petitions, leaflets, and letters were being circulated throughout the area urging farmers not to vote. The leaflets, illustrated with a carton of a ASCS ballots torn in half and thrown into a garbage can marked "tokenism," read as follows:

"Tear it up! Throw it away... Farmers of Communities B and F have met and decided that the Agricultural Department's offer of a re-election in just two of eight communities is not good enough.

"There were injustices in all eight communities. All eight should have re-elections. We are tired of tokenism and halfway meaures. So we are asking you to join us in boycotting the elctions. When you get your ballot, throw it away! Don't vote.

During the Dec. 4 elections at least seven Negroes and COFO poll watchers and aides were arrested on trespass and other charges. Many elections were held in white stores and all were conducted by white [illegible] officials. George Raymond, COFO project director in Canton, was beaten, dry-shaved by Sheriff Billy Cauthan and threatened with death for his part in helping Negroes at the polls. CORE publicity director Marv Rich, of New York was punched in the nose outside a polling place in Madison county.

Negro Community Committeeman (five to a committee with the leading vote-getter automatically appointed chairman) were elected in Holmes, Benton and Madison counties.

Agricultural department officials insist they will hold the elections despite the boycott.

-30-

Box 1268
Jackson

JACKSON
MAY 3
PM
1965
MISS.

CORE
2209 Dryades
New Orleans, La.

May 18, 1965

Mr. Richard Jewett
1714 Everett Avenue
Jackson, Mississippi

Dear Mr. Jewett:

I am sending credit cards (gasoline) to the following persons:

Mr. Theodis Hewitt
c/o S O Williams Store
Carthage, Mississippi

Miss Sandra Watts
General Delivery
Philadelphia, Mississippi

Mrs. Catherine Crowell
513 25th Avenue
Meridian, Mississippi

Mr. George Raymond
838 Lutz Street
Canton, Mississippi

Mr. Richard Jewett
1714 Everett Avenue
Jackson, Mississippi

Mr. Greg Kabbo (kabbo)

Quitman, Mississippi

Sincerely,

Vonnie

Vonnie J. Jones
Office Secretary

MASTER

MAY 18, 1965

MEMO

TO: RICHARD JEWETT, GEORGE RAYMOND, CATHERINE CROWELL
SANDRA WATTS, GREG KASLO & THEODIS HEWITT

FROM: MR. RICHARD HALEY, CORE SOUTHERN DIRECTOR
2209 Dryades Street
New Orleans, Louisiana 70113

Along with signed contracts please send your old credit cards to this office. i m m e d i a t e l y

VONNIE J. JONES FOR
MR. RICHARD HALEY.

Regional Office

Reports - Mississippi County Projects
Jasper County

1965, May

ROUTING SLIP

From R.H. Date

To ___ HALEY

___ ✓ DENNIS D & D

___ ✓ ~~BERNSTEIN~~ Maddox

___ ✓ HOLLANDER EH

___ ✓ NUSBAUM

___ ✓ JONES Jones

___ ✓ CURRIER CC

___ ___ ___

___ ___ ___

___ RETURN TO SENDER

Return to Jones

File by

Under File by County

Other:

May6
1965
Meridian, Mississippi

Richard Haley
CORE Southern Office
2209 Dryades Street
New Orleans, Louisiana

Bimonthly Report
Jasper County
Judy Hampton
Phil Sharp (fomerly of Canton Project)

(we were given material on Jasper from Clarke C. CORE)

Vossburg

This is a small community just across the Clarke County--Jasper County line. We hoped to begin here and work our way toward the county seat, Bay Springs. Two workers have been living in vicinity since around April 11th; We have talked with a few people, (through the people housing us and just by hitting the roads) most people seem afraid and reluctant to even talk to us.

Some co-operation with Laurel NAACP

We have met with some of the local people (about 4) who have been working underground. They had been carrying voter regist ation forms around and trying to get people to learn to fill them out; there are 4500 eligible Negro voters in this county and on record 6 are registered. As a local person said to us in Bay Springs" she didn't want to get killed marching down to the courthouse."

Meeting was held early last July 20th. This was a county meeting of the Freedom Democratic Party. Preston Ponder, the then project director at Meridian, acted as a temporary chairman. A Rev. McGovern was elected chairman and four delegates were elected. One ofwhich was a Mr. Odic Milsap (Star Route, Box 5A, Vossburg, mis) who is a very active person and seems to have been for a long while; He has and is introducting us to many people; setting up meeting with the Methodist men at his church at which we can speak; he is housing one of us and offered his house for a meeting; He also has offered free of charge an old house on his property to be used for any kind of civil rights activities that community chooses; We hope to get some of the active people in Clark County to come over and meet with the few interested (at present) people in Jasper very soon--Mr. Milsap's house is a good central spot to use;

Threat Incident on April 29th; complete affadavits filed with the FBI; they came to see Phil Sharp and the other local people involved to check it out. police are aware of our presence the FBI tells us; The high sheriff in Bay Springs supposed to be reasonable (whatever that means)

office in Jackson

Contact made with the FDP and the CORE Southern office to let them know that we exist and would they put us on their mailing list; also

list of interested local people being sent to District Office in Philadephia; Bimonthly reports being sent to Dick Jewett in Jackson and Richard Haley in New Orleans; Daily reports being kept also; and Parley cards being made up on individuals in community for future reference.
Request made to FDP for applications to be sent for those in community who may act as temporary FDP executive comittee; Requests put out to past summer volunteers and various friends under community approval to work in Jasper after or preferably before June 15th. Car needed with these workers; Present workers have car; Judy Hampton and Phil Sharp will leave when reblacements appear (hopefully by June 15th;)

Churches: Phil and Judy went to service this past Sunday at Vossburg St. Peter's Baptist church about 1/4 mile from where Judy is living; Repsonse from the minister not too favorable; Said they would put it up to the community whether or not we could speak in church; We participated in service and then left. not go[illegible] church

Bay Springs County Seat

* House being rented From mr & mrs. Dorsey P.O Box 31 - Stonewall, Mississippi

1--Office rented at 45 dollars a month excluding gas, elect, and water woman who owns it lives in Clarke; house is insured; We hope to fix it up gradually and maybe attract community; local people whom we talk to thought this a good idea. House is centrally located in the community and is in pretty good shape; it is in process of repairs now. Could be made into a nice community center if people wanted it.

2--This Sunday (on May 8th) we are going with some people who have relatives in Jasper (from Clarke County) and meet some more people in Bay Springs; they seem to be extremely scared there;

Financial Report

Acct: Jasper County CORE

Bank account opened on May 5th, 1965 in Bay Springs by Phil Sharp
100 dollar check (COFO)
20 donation check (response to article I wrote)
2.00 check (postage donation) parents

Before account opened money received in Project:

100.00.....to Phil Sharp from Dan Wood last summer volunteer at Valleyview Project
15.00..... From Rev. Ferguson responding to article Phil wrote
20.00..... From Rev. Zager responding to same article

135.00----total income

Money used for:

Prospective expenses
during coming weeks:
4/5 rent
45 deposit (for
10 deposit on ga
10 " " el
10 " " w
? " "
prospective bonds
$00.00

Money used for:

64,86.....repair of car Canton, Mississippi
4-14-65
5.80.....new headlight & inspection sticker
3-29-65
13.65.....Mississippi plates ---4-12-65
53.34.....new generator, regulator
universal joing repair, 4-16-65
12.25.....rep. ~~gas~~ leak in power steering

149.90 total expenses (balance made up with personal CORE checks)

While in Philadelphia on way to march on Washington we stopped at a union office and got literature and handbooks on organizing unions; also this address was given to us as good contact to talk to about getting experts down here for workshops etc. We thought either you or Juli Nusbaum might be interested in it:

Mr. Nicholis Zonaricn
industrial Union Department
815 Sixteenth Street N.W.
Washington, D.C.

I'll send your name as contact & perhaps in a few days (Negro owned station) I haven't found any yet

Needs:

We need some kind of radios immediately. also a credit card* if possible; (at present we have to go back to Clarke County for gas)

We can be reached (or at least the message gotten to us) via the Quitman COFO office in Clark County, Greg Kaslow the worker there (He knows of our whereabouts;)

Our address is 513 25th Avenue, Meridian Mississippi c/o of the Meridian Project. Phil Sharp has a personal box number at Box 278 in Vossburg, but we don't trust it too much there. use at your own discretion)

If this report is not comprehensive enough or whatever please let us know.

For freedom,
Phil Sharp + Judy Hampton

Jasper County COFO c/o →
Phil Sharp &
Judy Hampton
513 25th A venue
Meridian, Mississippi

MASTER

CORE SOUTHERN OFFICE
2209 Dryades Street
New Orleans, Louisiana 70113

May 11, 1965

Mr. Phil Sharpe
513 25th Avenue
Meridian, Mississippi

Dear Phil,

The report on Jasper County, is, to answer your last sentence, quite comprehensive enough. On the other side of the ledger, this office pleads guilty to having been remiss in maintaining contacts with you.

By all means keep us informed on the responsé to your requests for volunteers to work in Jasper. It would be very confusing, a few months hence, to learn that a complete stranger has either been put in jail or made a major break through in voters registration. In either case out potential for reaction to the situation would be extremely limited.

I will be in Mississippi as soon as possible---likely early next week---to talk"money". Such talk will be in terms of your needs for housing, office etc; bank account; auto expenses. I have on hand in this office several Esso Credit Cards. This is the only card that CORE is using, thus you are limited to Esso stations unless you can persuade the station owner to install (rental) an Esso card processing machine. I know in advanwe that National Office will not assume responsible for purchases which are not processed by machines. I understand the urgencies of your need for a credit card; I will make an effort today to determine the number of cards needed in Mississippi so I can distribute them by tomorrow. We would like to know the kinds of radios you need and how soon you need them; theoretically we can began to work on that need when we have this information.

I will pass the name of Mr. Zonarich to Judy Nusbaum.

A reminder that the staff conference is scheduled to take place in Waveland May 20th through 22nd. You will receive further information later this week.

Sincerely,

Richard Haley
CORE Southern Director

RH/vjj

[1965, ca. May 11]

File Chrono

Just Memo concerning the conf. Jones

Richard Haley
CORE Southern Regional Office
2209 Dryades St.
New Orleans, Louisiana 70113

Dear Richard,

Judith Hampton and myself from Jasper County Mississippi plan to attend the Southern Staff conference, May 20-22nd. Subject matter outlined in the memo sounds good - we are waiting for proposed agenda and information on housing, subsistence and mileage reimbursements.

We will let you know if others plan to attend.

For Peace + Freedom,

Phil Sharp * & Judy Hampton
Jasper County CORE
P.O. Box 278
Vossburg, Mississippi

* Mail should be in my name only (Phil Sharp) to avoid hang-up with post mistress - attention is on me & Judy has been able to work effectively with frightened community.

Rockbridge County

1965

CONGRESS OF RACIAL EQUALITY
Southern Regional Office
2211 Dryades Street - Room 203
New Orleans, Louisiana 70113

April 17, 1964

Mike and Rita Schwerner
306 44th Avenue
Meridian, Mississippi

Dear Mike and Rita,

I have read through your reports dating from the first of the year. Aside from being comprehensive, they contain a great deal, I think, of human interest. I have taken the liberty of extracting portions from these reports in the hope of being able to adopt them to some kind of appeal for funds and material. At the moment I can not say what the nature of this will be, whether it will be successful or even an acceptable idea. However it may develop, your story is a poignant moving one and deserves wider circulation than the file drawers of two or three CORE offices.

Sincerely yours,

Richard Haley

[1964, April 20]

Weekly Report Meridian Community Center Week of April 20th Rita Schwerne

This week has brought about several innovations in the community center. It has also seen some reaction from the white community concerning our presence and activity in Meridian.

We have started a class for high school dropouts. There are five young men in the class, with more expected, and we meet two evenings a week. The class is conducted as a seminar, with the students planning their own course of study. We have started with work on speech. The boys seem enthusiastic and have become involved in other aspects of our program.

For a few weeks now we have required all persons receiving cloth from the sewing project to sign the Freedom Registration under the theory that if they are not willing to help themselves, there is little we can do for them. We have become somewhat discouraged by the apathy and fear which is rampant in much of the Negro community, and after several discussions, decided that we would initiate a still more positive aproach to our giving of material. Starting today, all persons over 21 who wish to receive material must first make an attempt to register at the court house. We include in this all persons living in both Lauderdale and Clark counties. Persons living in Kemper are exempted because of the harsh reprisals for registration attempts. We are not ready to cope with the problems which would arise from sending many people down in Kemper. The women who came up today for cloth listened to our reasoning, and with one exception, agreed to go register this Tuesday. We believe that certain people will probably refuse to come up here now that we have started this policy, but we also feel that it is far more constructive to offer people a chance to change their situation than to simply continue to give them cloth. We realize that eventually we will have trouble getting more material donated, and in the meantime we want to have brought about some changes.

Although mass meetings fall mostly in the realm of political action, and are therefore not included in my report, the atmosphere in the community is vital to the functioning of the center, and for that reason I mention that during a mass meeting on Thursday nite someone turned in a false alarm, and the audience came near panic when the fire trucks arrived. We were able to calm them, but we saw any indication of the fear. Also it must be mentioned that most of the ministers refuse us their churches, and won't even speak about the center.

Last nite a cross was burned in front of First Union Baptist Church, where we have had meetings and the minister has been outspokenly in favor of our work. This is the first cross burning in Meridian.

We have contacted a white Mennonite minister who has expressed a sincere desire to help. We have had him here at the center a few times and I have worked out a plan with him for attempting to find a scholarship to a Northern college for one of the local girls. He met her the other day and was very favorably impressed. He promised to leave not a stone unturned in finding aid for her. We will be in close contact with him about it.

[1964, April 13]

Weekly Report Week of April 13 Meridian Community Center Rita Schwerner

Although we expect to be receiving more material, none has come in this week, so we have been taking names and addresses of people who come up, and we will notify them when the cloth comes in. In the meantime we have been asking each woman who comes for cloth to sign the Freedom Registration.

The local girls and Lenore and myself have been making baby smocks out of scrap material, and distributing them to people who need them. The girls feel a great part of what is happening and they are, of course, performing a big service. Some of them have also been helping with the sewing lessons.

This afternoon, the children who came for story hour decided that it was too hot to put on a puppet show, so we did something else which I consider extremely valuable. I read them sections of a book called "All About Us" which explains very simply to children the differences, or rather lack of them, between races, and how prejudices build up. We talked about it and related the story to Meridian, talking especially about the separate schools and why they might exist. The answers came from the children, and we examined each possibility, either accepting or discarding it. The children then drew pictures of people of various colors working and playing together. We plan to place these pictures in the library.

We are extremely short of money--we just got enough from Jackson to pay our April rent, which we have been repeatedly asked for. Today we got a phone bill for $82, which we are sure is phoney, since many of the calls on it were either placed collect or never made at all. On Monday morning Mickey will go down to the Telephone Co. to argue it out. We are all extremely angry about it.

The Mass Meeting on Wed. falls mostly under Mickey's report, but I did speak at it ~~at the~~ about the community center. We have gotten several people up here as a result. Tomorrow we will all be speaking at different churches.

Dr. Kornegay is working very hard on finding housing for the students, and we are starting to get results.

On Thursday there was a letter to the editor of the local paper which was supposedly written by a Negro, in which he spoke about the horrors of race amalgamation and suggested that every Negro should join together to turn out the student invasion. We were incensed by it, as was most of the Negro community, and Lenore and I composed an answer, which the entire staff signed and we mailed to the Meridian Star. We really don't expect it to be printed, but we decided to dare them to do so.

We have received numerous letters in the last few weeks from people who have heard about the center and want to help. We have written back, telling them of some of the things we need, and suggesting that if they have access to any of these item, through knowing some one who sells them, etc. they might try to send them. Interest in the center seems to be growing both here and in the North.

There is a white minister in Meridian, of the Episcopal denomination, whose church we visited several weeks ago. This week we spoke with him some more and he informed Mickey and Preston Ponder that he is attempting to get several Negro Episcopal families into his church as members. He expects opposition from some of his congregation, but says he is determined to do it. We'll see what happens. We, the staff, are debating asking him to be a part of the delegation to the National Democratic Convention, as we believe this should be an integrated delegation if possible.

Weekly Report—Meridian Community Center —Pitt Schwerner—April 12, 1964

This week has been a highly profitable one in grouth of the Center. Word has gotten around about our sewing project, and we have been swamped with women who want and need material, either to sew here or at home. We received one large box of cloth on Wed. from a personal friend of mine in NY, and by Saturday afternoon it was all gone. Elizabeth McFadden, who was asked by Val Coleman, of Nat. CORE, to make contacts for us with garment manufacturers has done and is doing an excellent job, and we have received several packages thru her. However, we still need more, and in every letter I write I beg for cloth. People have been sending us other related items, such as dress patterns and trimmings, and these we find extremely useful also. On W.. evening, George Raymond brought down three old treadle-type machines which CORE obtained for us. One of them works beautifully, another needs adjustment, and we will have it taken care of as soon as we have some money, and the third appears to be hopelessly broken, but we will have it checked also.

Books are still coming into the library, and circulation has gone up. Classes are small, but attendance is fairly steady. One woman who has been brushing up on her maths is now ready to make application at the downtown stores for a sales position. We discussed with her interviewing procedures and also some of the reactions which she might expect from white customers. Children made pu pets from scrap material in the story hour Sat. Next week they want to stage a puppet show.

As there had been several instances at the local bus stations of Negroes being refused service at the previously all-white counters, we have staged several sit-ins, with Lonora Thurmond going with some local youths. Prior to each such sit-in, we had all participants take part in non-violent workshops. There were no arrests or incidents, except for some name-calling, etc.

The police are still not bothering us, except that they did pick up Mike on Wed. nite with one of the Canton men. They claimed that they were looking for a Negro and white escaped convicts, and when their stories checked they released them.

We are in need of money—to pay our forty dollar rent bill for April of the center. Also, Lonora had to see an eye doctor, who prescribed glasses which she was told she should have been wearing from childhood. The bill came to $39, and we have been unable to pay it.

[1964, May 6]

Report—Wed., May 6th thru Sat., May 16 Meridian Rita Schwerner

On May 6th the three people who had been jailed for their participation in the boycott on Dill's Dollar Store were released. The boycott itself proved successful, in that the manager agreed to hire a Negro saleswoman with equal pay, hours, and job description. We have not yet made a decision about moving the boycott on the other stores, such as the five and tens. tho we did send letters to their national offices about three weeks ago asking for policy statements. We received an evasive letter from Kress, no reply from Newberrys, and the public relations man for Woolworths is coming into Meridian on Wednesday to talk with us. It is likely that after speaking with him we will reach some decision.

We have been receiving some encouraging results in the community center. More people are participating in programs, and there is a great deal of interest in the expansion of facilities for the summer. In addition, we have received some equipment from various sources. Some personal friends of mine sent a gift of a new electric sewing machine. National CORE has informed me that a tape recorder and a duplicating machine are being shipped down. Several other people are arranging for the donation of a typewriter. Not only will this equipment help the office to function more smoothly, but much of it will be of use for the summer programs. For instance, the additional duplicating machine can be placed in the building we have obtained for the Freedom School, in order that the teachers there be able to use it for lessons. The tape recorder will be of use both in recording testimony and for classes.

We have obtained the Baptist Seminary for use as a Freedom School. In addition to class rooms, it has a ball field, and will sleep 18 people. We have housing for about 40 additional people. We plan to have a small Freedom School in the rural area of Lauderdale Co. in one of the churches.

I am hoping that we will be sent someone with skill in crafts, in order that we can institute and maintain an arts and crafts program here in the community center. Rev. Hendrick, a local woman minister, has informed me that she is a licensed mid-wife, and had, in the past, taught classes in pre-natal care. She has expressed an interest in that phase of the program, and has said she would be glad to train a few of the young women, both local, and summer staff, to instruct other . We hope to set up classes in pre-natal care and nutrition, It is possible that one staff person will be able to travel in the rural area several times a week giving such instruction to people who cannot get in for classes.

At the present time we have a middle aged woman from California who was sent to us thru recruitment in the Jackson office. She will be here helping out in the center for about two weeks. She is a former hight school spanish teacher, and will probably be able to do some teaching, tho in such a short time it is not feasible to set up structured classes.

We are still in debt, and greatly in need of money. The local people have started to assume some of the responsibility for feeding us, as our paychecks(for the 3 of us on CORE staff) have to be used for necessities here in the office. We understand that this situation exists thru out the state, so we are not making a special complaint, simply reporting the conditions here.

CORE SOUTHERN REGIONAL OFFICE
Room 203 2211 Dryades Street
New Orleans, Louisiana, 70113
Edward S. Hollander, Field Secretary

May 14, 1964

CORE COMMUNITY CENTER IN MERIDIAN, MISSISSIPPI

The community center which CORE has established in Meridian, Mississippi is a departure from CORE's traditional usage of nonviolent direct action. It is an attempt to dramatize needs by attempting to fulfill them. The community center program is a part of the over-all Mississippi civil rights strategy aimed at the basic problems in that unique state. To meet the challenge Mississippi presents, all civil rights organizations in the state have united to form a state-wide organization and program in the Council of Federated Organizations (COFO) which includes CORE, SNCC, SCLC, NAACP and fifty-some local groups around the state. The Meridian community center is a CORE project within the COFO state program.

In just five months the Meridian center has become the only functioning community center in the state. In January of this year Rita and Mike Schwerner arrived in Meridian to set up the center. To start it they had a typewriter, a desk, a chair and five otherwise empty rooms. Mike, 24, is a June, 1961 graduate of Cornell; to work in Mississippi he left his job as a social worker at the Hamilton Madison Settlement House in New York City. His 22 year old wife Rita had been teaching English at South Jamaica Junior High School after her graduation from Queens College in June of last year. Working for CORE on the "Task Force" they earn $10 a week each plus room and board.

Although there is a tremendous need in the Meridian area to relieve the hard physical facts of life, we do not have the resources to enable the center to make a significant assault on the problems of unemployment, sanitation, nutrition, health and pre-natal care. But CORE and COFO feel that a center can help break the tight system of Negro oppression, the stifiling of ideas and discussion, and help arouse a spirit of striving within the Negro community.

Seeking to provide avenues of thought and expression, the Schwerners felt a library would habe to be a basic part of the community center. From an initial 500 books provided by the SNCC book center in Greenwood they have increased the library to more than 10,000 volumes, all catalogued. They obtained that additional books by writing to the names of the contributors on the cartons of their original shipment and from a CORE "Books for Mississippi" drive conducted in the north. The library has a circulation of 75-100 weekly. No late fines are charged because the borrowers are too poor, and, as Rita put it, "if someone wants to own a book that badly it is felt that it would help them more that it would hurt the library". Mike built the bookshelves with the help of local teenagers; you can see in the photographs that they used sections of logs for the vertical shelf supports to save money on lumber. Rita reports that more often than not the library has the material high school students need when they come to do their school assignments.

Saturday afternoons Rita conducts a story hour for children. In addition to reading it includes listening to records and just last week the center received a contribution of children's games which Rita says were greatly enjoyed. With scrap material from the sewing program the children have

been making puppets and will soon stage a puppet show, much to their delight.

In March Rita discovered that there was considerable enthusiasm among the local women and teenage girls for a sewing program. Owning a new dress is arare experience for the women so Rita obtained four sewing machines from the north and from an unsuccessful sewing cooperative in Ruleville. Northern benefactors sent material. She started a distribution of the material and sewing classes for those who needed instruction. Because of a lack of material she limits each woman to one dress or a skirt and blouse. Over 110 women have received material and at least 25 are waiting for it. Most of the women sew at home because they have to be near their children but there are about ten dresses perpetually being worked on at the community center. After the first two months of the program Rita gave the material only to those who attempted to register to vote (Meridian, the state's second largest city, is one of the least difficult areas in Mississippi for Negroes to register) in the belief that the community center can help only those who are willing to help themselves. There was an initial drop in the number of women coming in for material but the slack was soon made up as the idea became accepted in the community.

A program to train adults for civil service jobs proved too difficult but Rita is now working with a group of six high school dropouts, young men 19 and 20 years old. They plan their own program which is not strictly academic. I think it is interesting that the first thing they chose to work on was speech and self expression. At the beginning of the program Rita made an agreement with them that if they became bored they were to say so rather than just not come back.

The center also offers some recreation facilities including records, a ping pong table which was built by teenagers, and just plain lounge space. A program to show films has not started yet because the center's budget has not been able to cover rental costs. The Schwerners also hope to use the center for teenagers' parties in the future.

The following paragraph from one of the Schwerners' reports touches on some interesting points. "Psychologically the center is filling a need among the people for recognition, for a place to come and talk, for something that is for them. At first there was some suspicion of us as whites, but we believe that most of this has passed. Before we came there had been other workers in and out of Meridian, and the people are anxious to know that we intend to stay. They feel important at having workers assigned to their city."

The Schwerners have had an amazing lack of police interference for Mississippi. Mickey was "picked up" once and was arrested on May 4, but this was in connection with a selective buying campaign (which, by the way, is nearing success after just three weeks) rather than with the community center. A cross was burned on April 24 in front of a Negro church; the Schwerners happened to be at the minister's home at the time. It was the first cross burned in Meridian in over five years. By and large Meridian has maintained its reputation for being the most moderate of Mississippi cities. This situation may change as the program there includes more voter registration, rallies and boycotts. These programs are being worked on by Mike with help from several local teenagers while Rita spends full time at the community center.

[1964, April 27]

Report Week of April 27 Meridian, Miss. Rita Schwerner

More books received for library, among them several more James Baldwin books, which are extremely popular. Material received for sewing project. It goes only to people who agree to go to the court house and register. Number of women have been registered in this way. Received promise of a sewing machine from a friend in New York. Expect it soon.

Box of children's games sent to us, and were extremely popular when used on Saturday for the children's hour.

We are having a meeting tonite, May 4, for the purpose of organizing the Miss. Student Union here in Meridian. Expect a large turn-out. The students have become extremely active lately, and have been coming up often to help.

Started May 1st

Started a boycott of one of the local stores (Bill's Dollar Store) as they refuse to hire Negroes or discuss the matter. Boycott going well. Students helped on Saturday, passing out leaflets and talking to people on the street. Police threatened arrest but did not bother most of the people, either local or staff. They picked up two young men for "investigation" but released them about 2 hours later when neither would talk without their lawyer present. We have been instructing people as to procedures to follow if arrested.

~~On Monday, May 4,~~
On Thursday, April 30 one of the young men who has been working with us was arrested and charged with "obsenity." He allegedly wrote the words "shit" and "shited" on a voter registration form at the Lauderdale Co. courthouse. He is being held in the county jail with $500 bond, for trial on Wed. May 6. Howard Moore, of NAACP Legal Defense is to represent him.

On Monday, May 4, 3 more people were arrested, this time in connection with the boycott. Leroy McCall, a local man, was charged with vagrancy, after talking to people about the boycott. He is being held in the city jail with $15 bond, for trial Wed. May 6. Mickey Schwerner was arrested and charged on two counts of blocking a crosswalk. His bond is $50 and he's being held in the city jail for trial Wed. May 6. Lenora Thurmond was arrested and charged with interferring with a man's business and is being held in the county jail with $500 bond, trial Wed. May 6(trial date not definite) Legal Defense has agreed that Howard Moore will handle these cases also.

We have gotten strong support from part of the community; part is now severly frightened. Boycott is continuing, and few Negroes are entering the store. We have been offered one or two churches to speak in as a result, And a few ministers have come out strongly in favor of our work. There has been some change in the type of people coming up here. We originally got people who 'didn't want to get involved' but did want to use the facilities of the center. Now these people are staying away, but we are getting more people who want to take an active role in the struggle. This may somewhat change the tone of the community center if it continues, but we will be able to somewhat provide for the needs of people hurt by activity in the movement. The sewing project may be able to play a large role in this manner.

We need money to pay our many bills. Don't know the exact amount of our debt, as Mickey handles the books and he is in jail, but I believe we owe well over $100.

May 13, 1964

Addition - -

Mike Schwerner was found guilty at trial May 6, fined $20 and given 10 days to pay which he plans to do and not appeal. He was in jail 48 hours, Monday to Wednesday

Lenora Thurmond's charge of interferring with a business stemmed from her asking people to participate in the ~~X~~ selective buying campaign. At her trial, May 6, she was also found guilty and fined $50 which she has already paid. She was in jail 49-50 hours, Monday-Wendesday.

don't know about the other two because the Schwerners are somewhere in Greenville at a staff conference. If it is important that you know you could probably call them direct tomorrow, when they should be back.

Ed Hollander

RH
Meridian file

SOUTHERN REGIONAL OFFICE
Rm. 203 2211 Dryades St.
New Orleans, La. 70113
(504) 523-7204

May 14, 1964

Mr. Ernest Dunbar
Senior Editor, LOOK Magazine
488 Madison Avenue
New York 22, New York

Dear Mr. Dunbar:

I am writing to you regarding a CORE project in Meridian, Mississippi which I think will interest you. The community center which we have established there is a departure from CORE's traditional usage of non-violent direct action. It is an attempt to dramatize needs by attempting to fulfill them.

The community center program is a part of the over-all Mississippi civil rights strategy aimed at the basic problems in that unique state. To meet the challenge Mississippi presents, all civil rights organizations in the state have united to form a state-wide organization and program in the Council of Federated Organizations which includes CORE, SNCC, NAACP, SCLC and fifty-some local groups around the state. The Meridian community center is a CORE project within the COFO state program.

In just five months the center has become the only functioning community center in the state. In January of this year Rita and Mike Schwerner arrived in Meridian to set up the center. To start it they had a typewriter, a desk, a chair and five otherwise empty rooms. Mike, 24, is a June, 1961 graduate of Cornell; to work in Mississippi he left his job as a social worker at the Hamilton Madison Settlement House in New York City. His 22 year old wife Rita had been teaching English at South Jamaica Junior High School after her graduation from Queens College in June of last year. Working for CORE they earn $10 a week each plus room and board.

Although there is a tremendous need in the Meridian area to relieve the hard physical facts of live we do not have the resources to enable the center to make a s ignificant assault on the problems of unemployment, sanitation, nutrition, health and pre-natal care. But CORE and COFO feel that a center can help break the tight system of Negro oppression, the stifling of ideas and discussion, and help arouse a spirit of striving within the Negro community.

Seeking to provide avenues of thought and expression, the Schwerners felt a library would have to be a basic part of the community center. From an initial 500 books provided by the SNCC book center in Greenwood they have increased the library to more than 10,000 volumes, all datalogued. They obtained the additional books by writing to the names of the contributors on the cartons of their original shipment and from a CORE "Books for Mississippi" drive conducted in the north. The library has a circulation of 75-100 weekly. No late fines are charged because the borrowers are too poor; and, as Rita put it, "if someone wants to own a book that badly it is felt that it would help them more than it would hurt the library". Mike built the bookshelves with the help of local teenagers; you can see in the photographs that they used sections of logs for the vertical shelf supports to save money on lumber. Rita reports that more often than not the library has the material high school students need for their school assignements.

Saturday afternoons Rita conducts a story hour for children. In addition to reading it includes listening to records and just last week the center received a contribution of children's games which Rita says were greatly enjoyed. With scrap material from the sewing program the children have been making puppets and will soon stage a puppet show, much to their delight.

In March Rita discovered that there was considerable enthusiasm among the local women and teenage girls for a sewing program. Owning a new dress is a rare experience for the women so Rita obtained four sewing machines from the north and from an unsuccessful sewing cooperative in Ruleville. Northern benefactors sent material. She started a distribution of the material and sewing classes for those who needed instruction. Because of a lack of material she limits each woman to one dress or a skirt and blouse. Over 110 women have received material and at least 25 are waiting. Most of the women sew at home because they have to be near their children but there are about ten dresses perpetually being worked on at the community center. After the first two months Rita gave material only to those who attempted to register to vote (Meridian is about the least difficult area in Mississippi for Negroes to register), in the belief that the community center can help only those who are willing to help themselves. There was an initial drop in the number

of women coming in for material but the slack was soon made up as the idea became accepted in the community.

A program to train adults for civil service jobs proved too difficult but Rita is now working with a group of six high school dropouts, young men 19 and 20 years old. They plan their own program which is not strictly academic. I think it is interesting that the first thing they chose to work on was speech and self expression. At the beginning of the program Rita made an agreement with them that if they became bored they were to say so rather than just not come back.

The center also offers some recreation facilities including records, a ping pong table which was built by teenagers , and just plain lounge space. A program to show films hasn't started yet because the center's budget has not been able to cover the rental costs. The Schwerners also hope to use the center for parties in the future.

The following paragraph from one of the Schwerner's reports touches on some interesting points. "Psychologically the center is filling a need among the people for recognition, for a place to come and talk, for something that is for them. At first there was some suspicion of us as whites, but we believe that most of this has passed. Before we came there had been other workers in and out of Meridian, and the people are anxious to know that we intend to stay. They feel important at having workers assigned to their city."

The Schwerners have had an amazing lack of police interference for Mississippi. Mickey was "picked up" once and was arrested on May 4, but this was in connection with a selective buying campaign (which, by the way, is nearing success after just three weeks) rather than the community center. A cross was bunred on April 24 in front of a Negro church; the Schwerners happenad to be at the minister's home at the time. It was the first cross burned in Meridian in over five years and by and large Meridian has maintained its reputation for being the most moderate of Mississippi cities. This situation may change as the program there includes more voter registration, rallies and boycotts. These programs are being worked on by Mike and a SNCC worker while Rita spends full time at the community center.

I think the center offers excellent possibilities for a photo-text story and that it is an important story to be told in its own right. I am hopeful too that it would

provide a needed balance to the vast coverage of the "hard" civil rights news such as the stall-in, Chester, Cambridge - and the usual run of Mississippi news. Debate of tactics has preempted so much civil rights discussion that I think the Meridian story could help focus on more substantive issues and a project that is clearly constructive.

I would be happy to provide any additional information you might want; in any case I look forward to hearing from you.

Truly yours,

Edward S. Hollander
Field Secretary

enc. 15 photographs

RM
SRO file

CORE SOUTHERN REGIONAL OFFICE
Room 203 2211 Dryades Street
New Orleans, Louisiana, 70113
Edward S. Hollander, Field Secretary

May 14, 1964

CORE COMMUNITY CENTER IN MERIDIAN, MISSISSIPPI

The community center which CORE has established in Meridian, Mississippi is a departure from CORE's traditional usage of nonviolent direct action. It is an attempt to dramatize needs by attempting to fulfill them. The community center program is a part of the over-all Mississippi civil rights strategy aimed at the basic problems in that unique state. To meet the challenge Mississippi presents, all civil rights organizations in the state have united to form a state-wide organization and program in the Council of Federated Organizations (COFO) which includes CORE, SNCC, SCLC, NAACP and fifty-some local groups around the state. The Meridian community center is a CORE project within the COFO state program.

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June 10, 1964

Mr. & Mrs. Micheal Schwerner
2505½ Fifth Street
Meridian, Mississippi

Dear Mike and Rita,

Obviously the tension is gradually rising as your activities probe more deeply into the use of direct action. I am pushing very hard for national office to set up a high level Justice Department conference, to discuss specific protective measures for the days to come and punitive action for times past. To date I have nothing definite to report.

Events of thepast few months indicate a growing inclination among southern Negroes to "get in there and start swinging." While this is the best tradition of the "fine old American spirit of competition", it's playing hell with non-violent philosophy. Anticipating as you must, the outbreak of violence around your demonstration, I urge you to emphasize non-violence without shame or apology.

As the passage of the Civil Rights Bill grows imminent, I suggest that you begin to set up testing teams and plans for any eventualities in regard to those tests: reception, refusa l to serve, ejection, violence from customers. We must be prepared for any of those and have already decided what the next step is to be.

The money problems that you have, simply reflect the money problems that CORE has. Hold on the best you can; I will scream as loudly as I can.

Sincerely,

Richard Haley

RH/ds

Report Meridian June 6, 1964 Rita Schwerner

A great deal has happened since my last report was written. On Friday, ~~Jun~~ May 22, we started a selective buying campaign of the three five and ten cent stores here in Meridian. They are: Kress, Newberry's and Woolworth's. We had previously attempted to negotiate with the store managers, to no avail. Letters were sent to the National Offices--no results. We are asking for sales jobs for Negroes and the desegregation of the lunch counters. On May 23, one young man was arrested for passing out leaflets. On Sat., May 30, 11 more people were arrested for interferring with a man's business--a state law. The trials were to take place on Wed., June 3, but the attorney, John Due, obtained a week's continuance. He is attempting to have the cases removed to Federal Court on the grounds that no one can obtain a fair civil rights trial ina Mississippi Court. The boycott appears to be fairly successful, but a delegation of ministers, accompanied by a staff person, who attempted once more to speak with the managers this morning, were rebuffed. Any further discussion will now have to be initiated by the managers. If there is no break thru this week, further direct action, perhaps in the form of a picket line, is planned for next Saturday.

The Community Center is functioning fairly well, with children using the facilities in greater number now that school is out. It has become a place to explain to people the importance of the movement, and the part they can play in it. We received a shipment of 200 new dresses, of different sizes and materials, and we are distributing them to needy persons. We still follow the procedure that all Lauderdale Co. residents who are over 21, must register to vote before they receive either material or clothing. We explain that this is a necessary step to alleviate the conditions which make the distribution of clothing necessary. The number of women receiving clothing and free material has been reduced since this procedure was introduced about a month ago, but we feel that at least the people we are reaching are really attempting to help themselves.

We have been holding mass meetings frequently, an d have one scheduled for every night this coming week.

We are being thrown out of our house on Monday. We have been able to find housing for everyone but Mickey and myself. The two of us are searching for an apartment, but anything that is available people are afraid to rent to us, and what we could have is not empty. We have been receiving large numbers of prank calls since the latest boycott started, and one person has been calling all nite long the past severel nights. We don't like to take the phone off the hook, but have started to do so when we go to sleep. On ~~Friday~~ Thurs our water was turned off, and on Friday the gas and electricity. We now have the water and gas back, but not the electricity. Evidently someone had called the different companies saying he was Mickey and asking that service be discontinued. All of this is annoying and takes time to straighten out, but to be expected. It should be added that the clerks in the different companies are not anxious to remedy the situation the moment they realize who Mickey is.

We are, as usual, in need of money. We have 125 dollars tied up in bond right now. Rent on the office and other bills are due.

? PROB. AUGUST

July 17, 1964

COFO Project in Meridian, Mississippi

Summer 1964 by Bob GORE (I think)

This report is "comprehensive" only in the sense that it will attempt to cover the period of time I spent with the Meridian Project, June 25, 1964 through August 14, 1964. It will deal with the three major aspects of the project; Political Programs, Freedom Schools and Community Centers. Under these three major headings, we will include the following: (1) description of activities, (2) personal observations, and (3) recommendations. While every effort will be made to make the first part (description of activities) objective, no such claim can be made for the last parts. In fact, it should be clearly understood that my own predilections and biases are operative in the latter parts.

It should be understood that as Project Director, I was attempting to make some kind of coordination with each area of operation. I was not nearly as successful as I had hoped in keeping an absolute dossier of information on each phase of the operation, therefore, there may be some unnecessary generalities.

FREEDOM SCHOOLS

(1) Description

A Freedom School was established at 31st Avenue and 16th Street in Meridian, the site of the Meridian Baptist Seminary. This is a three-story building with numerous classrooms on each floor. According to one of the regular teachers at the Seminary, minimal classes are held there during eight months of the year. Only the lower level is used for these generally.

The coordinator of the FS was Mark Levy of New York City. Mark is a Queens College senior and was assisted by his wife Betty, who recently completed her matriculation as a student of the Graduate School of Education, Harvard. Both of them were chosen as coordinators for the Meridian FS at the orientation session at Oxford, Ohio.

The school day ran from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday through Friday. While the general FS cirriculum was used, it was adapted to fit our particular project. Classes were held in general studies such as the social sciences, as well as in languages, music and a specialized course titled Freedom. This latter course was designed to aid students in understanding the freedom movement and what it maens to them and their relationship to their community. Art classes were ably handled by several teachers sent to us by the United Federation of Teachers in New York City. A drama class was taught during the last few weeks by a teacher who is also an actress.

It was attempted to keep the classes at the FS confined to those 12 years old and up. Young folk were presumably taken care of at the Community Center, some 20 blocks away. The Fs had a library of some7-8,00 volumes. Additionally, there were subscriptions to various national newspapers and magazines which introduced students to ideas which they had not previously met.

(2) Observations

The Freedom Schools served anumber of functions, not the least of which was that the students were able to achieve a high degree of exposure to substantive materials heretofore exoluded from their educational experience. Among these was contact with sensitive whites. Most of the white persons in the experience of these students were either paternalistic or hostile. In the FS situation, they met young white people who, on the one hand were helping them from a fraternal level. Also, they were given a wide latitude of personal expression which is latent--if at all evident in Mississippi public schools (or any public school, for that matter!). These things seemed to have a profound effect on the students. They tended to react positively, by and large. Naturally, there were also negative effects, such as the taking advantage of the freedom of expression which they were granted. I suspect that the pejorative aspects of the experience were minimal compared to the positive aspects.

(3) Recommendations

It would appear to me that we should try, in some manner, to continue the Freedom Schools throughout the year. I admit that this will present a hardship, not only on teachers, but on students as well. Rev. Inge, who is in charge of the Meridian Baptist Seminary, seems inclined towant us there. I recommend that we strongly encourage him to let us use the building for Freedom School purposes throughout the year. This will have to be worked out in terms of the schedule of the Seminary and the availability of students—who have other things to do during the regular school term. We certainly can offer them classes in arts and crafts, drama, "freedom" and several other areas including remedial work which should be beneficial to the students, the FS teachers, and the community at large.

POLITICAL PROGRAM

(1) Description

The political program was geared toward registering people in the Freedom Democratic Party, in the main. While some regular registration efforts were made, these were minute. COFO decided that the challenge to the "regular"

Mississippi Democratic Party at this time was much more important than regular registration.

During the two months we worked, we were able to register almost 4,000 persons in the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party (MFDP). Most of these registrations came from Meridian proper. We had six counties to work: Lauderdale(Meridian is the county seat), Kemper, Clarke, Newton, Jasper, andNeshoba. We held precinct meetings in Lauderdale. We were able to get delegates to the National Democratic Convention from all six counties.

One of the most salient features of the Lauderdale County operation was that we were able to set up a precinct system throughout the city of Meridian and in parts of the county. These precinct levels of operation will be used for ultimate break-throughs into the "regular" Democratic Party structure. We were able to get local persons intimately involved in the "political process" based on the concept of the power of the status quo. Hopefully, this will continue.

(2) Observations

It would appear that no matter how naive we were in political organization, we were able to get across a certain political expediency to a large number of people. Most of those whom we confronted with this idea--and with whom we were successful--were those who heretofore had had no truck with real politica. We were also able to at least confront people who were of status quo mentality, with the proposition that the MFDP was something quite separate from the usual "politica."

(3) Recommendations

I would recommend that we continue our stress on the MFDP, but that we integrate this concept with the necessity of driving a meaningful wedge between the newly-registered Negro voter and the old-line Democratic Party. This can be done partly through the MFDP, but must be coupled with voter education relative to what the Mississippi Democratic Party is, and what it can be with participation of all of the people--primarly the Negro people.

COMMUNITY CENTER

(1) Description

The Meridian Community Center has been a vital source of education and inspiration to the Meridian Negro community. Children have received there, many things which they would never have received in either the home, the church, the schools or the community. Again, as in the Freedom Schools, the children have been exposed to things they have never before experienced. In addition to

listening to the Beatles, they have listened to Bach and Berlioz; and they have liked it. There have been reading classes where the teacher read to the children (under 12 for the most part) and where the children read to the teachers. They have been taken on trips to the park, to the swimming pool and on other excursions which previously no one had the time nor the inclination to do for--or, rather--with them. They have also had lessons in sanitation and attempts have been made to give them some idea of what an integrated living system is--integrated from a view towards living with other people rather than living with people from a different ethnic group.

(2) Observations

The Community Center has served what may be the most valid function of all of the areas of concern. This is because we are reaching people at an age of flexibility; they can grow with the ideas which we believe to be valid; they have not yet been brainwashed into submission to a system which capitalizes on submission. Attached is a list of observations and recommendations with which I heartily concur. They were drawn up by a friend who has worked in the field of community centers for more than a decade, Mr. Thomas Lassiter of Kansas City. In addition to his recommendations, I would hope that we would consider establishing community centers in rural areas which, though less luxurious than Meridian might be able to accomplish, may still be able to do a great deal in Mississippi.

CONCLUSIONS OF SUMMER PROJECT

The Summer Project has been much more of a success than was conceived in moments of my wildest speculation. Though the milleniun has not been forthcoming in Mississippi, the very fact that Bob Mosses and Dave Dennis--along with their colleagues in COFO--conceived of the idea and actually carried it out is significant. There are three areas which I will mention briefly.

STUDENT VOLUNTEERS

As we know, most of the volunteers this summer were white students. This has a value, but it has drawbacks from my point of view. To begin with, those of us who are Negro have certain built-in prejudices against whites, no matter how much we deny them. We--collectively through the years--have been brutalized by a dominant white society so long that we cannot help but have reservations about the sincerity of white folks--even if we are relatives! By the same token, the white students who came to Mississippi this summer have certain prejudices which are built-in. Somehow, all of us--black and white--have to accept these vagaries and <u>begin to deal with them</u>. To me, this is one of the greatest lesson of the Summer Project; we were forced to deal with

Observations and Recommendations

T. A. Lassiter

I. General observations

A. Program as it now exists, lacks structure and purpose.

B. Program workers fail to plan and coordinate their activities.

C. The very loose schedule that exists, is not followed.

D. There is no communication between center program and other staff persons using the building. There is constant meddling and interference with kids while program is in session.

E. There is too much horse play between workers and children in the building. This type of play has value but tends to destroy or make it impossible to create the proper atmosphere for building program.

F. One worker has captured the hearts of the children who participate and all activities seem to revolve around him. This relationship could be used to great advantage in directing their interests toward constructive activities.

G. Facilities -
1. Existing facilities are limited and make programming difficult, however use could be made of those offered.
2. There are no limitations on use of equipment etc. for kids- this also makes it difficult to carry out program.

II. Recommendations

A. Childrens Program (ages through 12 yrs.)
1. The program of reading, crafts, music and recreation now begin developed, should be adequate for this age group, if these activities are used to develop self-discipline and attitudes for participation in group programs. Also motivating factors for personal achievement and improvement. (Health and personal hygiene)
2. All activities should be scheduled, and schedule closely followed.
3. Workers should plan and work together on all phases of program.

B. Youth Program (13 through 16 yrs.)

1. I would recommed the formation of a club with this age group with scheduled weekly meetings, the format of which would be-- lecture, discussion, panels or debates and recreation, (and service).
2. Meetings should be planned for at least 2 months in advance with the youth.
3. Suggested topics
   a. Local Government
   b. Hobbies
   c. Family relations
   d. Personality development
      -social etiquette
      -music appreciation
      -book reviews
      -clothing (for the occasion)
      -group singing
      -parliamentary procedure
   e. vocations and career exploration
   f. community problems
   g. crime and delinquency
4. Other Activities
   a. sports festivals
   b. tournaments and contests
   c. special interest groups
      -dance
      -drama
      -arts and crafts
5. Service projects
   a. set up Dewey Decimal system in Center Library, serve as librarians through the year.
   b. maintainence of Community Building and grounds.

c. offer tutoring service for smaller children...themselves being tutored by workers and other staff people where possible.

SOUTHERN REGIONAL OFFICE
Rm. 203 2211 Dryades St.
New Orleans, La. 70113
(504) 523-7204

July 18, 1964

Jhan and June Robbins
Redbook
230 Park Avenue
New York, New York 10017

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Robbins:

I am writing to you regarding the CORE community center project in Meridian, Mississippi which, despite the vast news coverage of the disappearance of Mike Schwerner, James Cheney and Andrew Goodman, has been largely unreported by the mass news media. The story of what the three, particularly Schwerner and his wife, were doing in Mississippi is just not known to the public.

Enclosed is a report on the Meridian community center which the Schwerners started and ran. I wrote the report in mid-May but did not have a chance to do much with it because I was arrested in late May in Canton, Mississippi and was in jail until the end of June. Since the three men disappeared I have not been to the center and so can not bring you up to date on how it is operating without the Schwerners. I am going to visit it this coming week but decided to get this letter off to you first.

The enclosed pictures of the center were taken by Mike and because he took the pictures in that area there are unfortunately very few of him available. Rita Schwerner has returned to New York and she might very well be willing to work with you on the story if you wanted. However, since I have not seen her since the tragedy I suggest that you check with Marvin Rich to see if she is able to do it.

I think the center offers excellent possibilities for a photo-text story and that it is an important story to be told in its own right. The disappearance of the three has made it more dramatic but not more important, I believe. I am hopeful that a story on the Schwerner's fine work would help provide a balance to the multiplicity of "hard" civil rights news such as the stall-in, Chester, St. Augustine, Cambridge - and the usual run of Mississippi news. Debate of tactics has preempted so much of the national civil rights discussion that I think the Meridian

story could help focus on more substantive issues and a porject that is clearly constructive.

I will plan to contact you in about a week to see if you are interested and to provide you with more recent information about the center should you want it.

Truly yours,

Edward S. Hollander
Field Secretary

enc. 15 photographs

PS I should add that the "first" community center in Canton mentioned in the enclosed flyer is a myth that exists in my national office. There still is not a center in Canton although there are definite plans to have one there.

July 17, 1964

COFO Project in Meridian, Mississippi

Summer 1964

Bob Gore

This report is "comprehensive" only in the sense that it will attempt to cover the period of time I spent with the Meridian Project, June 25, 1964 through August 14, 1964. It will deal with the three major aspects of the project; Political Programs, Freedom Schools and Community Centers. Under these three major headings, we will include the following: (1) description of activities, (2) personal observations, and (3) recommendations. While every effort will be made to make the first part (description of activities) objective, no such claim can be made for the last parts. In fact, it should be clearly understood that my own predilections and biases are operative in the latter parts.

It should be understood that as Project Director, I was attempting to make some kind of coordination with each area of operation. I was not nearly as successful as I had hoped in keeping an absolute dossier of information on each phase of the operation, therefore, there may be some unnecessary generalities.

FREEDOM SCHOOLS

(1) Description

A Freedom School was established at 31st Avenue and 16th Street in Meridian, the site of the Meridian Baptist Seminary. This is a three-story building with numerous classrooms on each floor. According to one of the regular teachers at the Seminary, minimal classes are held there during eight months of the year. Only the lower level is used for these generally.

The coordinator of the FS was Mark Levy of New York City. Mark is a Queens College senior and was assisted by his wife Betty, who recently completed her matriculation as a student of the Graduate School of Education, Harvard. Both of them were chosen as coordinators for the Meridian FS at the orientation session at Oxford, Ohio.

The school day ran from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday through Friday. While the general FS cirriculum was used, it was adapted to fit our particular project. Classes were held in general studies such as the social sciences, as well as in languages, music and a specialized course titled Freedom. This latter course was designed to aid students in understanding the freedom movement and what it maens to them and their relationship to their community. Art classes were ably handled by several teachers sent to us by the United Federation of Teachers in New York City. A drama class was taught during the last few weeks by a teacher who is also an actress.

It was attempted to keep the classes at the FS confined to those 12 years old and up. Young folk were presumably taken care of at the Community Center, some 20 blocks away. The Fs had a library of some7-8,00 volumes. Additionally, there were subscriptions to various national newspapers and magazines which introduced students to ideas which they had not previously met.

(2) Observations

The Freedom Schools served anumber of functions, not the least of which was that the students were able to achieve a high degree of exposure to substantive materials heretofore exeluded from their educational experience. Among these was contact with sensitive whites. Most of the white persons in the experience of these students were either paternalistic or hostile. In the FS situation, they met young white people who, on the one hand were helping them from a fraternal level. Also, they were given a wide latitude of personal expression which is latent--if at all evident in Mississippi public schools (or any public school, for that matter!). These things seemed to have a profound effect on the students. They tended to react positively, by and large. Naturally, there were also negative effects, such as the taking advantage of the freedom of expression which they were granted. I suspect that the pejorative aspects of the experience were minimal compared to the positive aspects.

(3) Recommendations

It would appear to me that we should try, in some manner, to continue the Freedom Schools throughout the year. I admit that this will present a hardship, not only on teachers, but on students as well. Rev. Inge, who is in charge of the Meridian Baptist Seminary, seems inclined towant us there. I recommend that we strongly encourage him to let us use the building for Freedom School purposes throughout the year. This will have to be worked out in terms of the schedule of the Seminary and the availability of students—who have other things to do during the regular school term. We certainly can offer them classes in arts and crafts, drama, "freedom" and several other areas including remedial work which should be beneficial to the students, the FS teachers, and the community at large.

POLITICAL PROGRAM

(1) Description

The political program was geared toward registering people in the Freedom Democratic Party, in the main. While some regular registration efforts were made, these were minute. COFO decided that the challenge to the "regular"

Mississippi Democratic Party at this time was much more important than regular registration.

During the two months we worked, we were able to register almost 4,000 persons in the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party (MFDP). Most of these registrations came from Meridian proper. We had six counties to work: Lauderdale(Meridian is the county seat), Kemper, Clarke, Newton, Jasper, andNeshoba. We held precinct meetings in Lauderdale. We were able to get delegates to the National Democratic Convention from all six counties.

One of the most salient features of the Lauderdale County operation was that we were able to set up a precinct system throughout the city of Meridian and in parts of the county. These precinct levels of operation will be used for ultimate break-throughs into the "regular" Democratic Party structure. We were able to get local persons intimately involved in the "political process" based on the concept of the power of the status quo. Hopefully, this will continue.

(2) Observations

It would appear that no matter how naive we were in political organization, we were able to get across a certain political expediency to a large number of people. Most of those whom we confronted with this idea--and with whom we were successful--were those who heretofore had had no truck with real politica. We were also able to at least confront people who were of status quo mentality, with the proposition that the MFDP was something quite separate from the usual "politica."

(3) Recommendations

I would recommend that we continue our stress on the MFDP, but that we integrate this concept with the necessity of driving a meaningful wedge between the newly-registered Negro voter and the old-line Democratic Party. This can be done partly through the MFDP, but must be coupled with voter education relative to what the Mississippi Democratic Party is, and what it can be with participation of all of the people--primarly the Negro people.

COMMUNITY CENTER

(1) Description

The Meridian Community Center has been a vital source of education and inspiration to the Meridian Negro community. Children have received there, many things which they would never have received in either the home, the church, the schools or the community. Again, as in the Freedom Schools, the children have been exposed to things they have never before experienced. In addition to

listening to the Beatles, they have listened to Bach and Berlioz; and they have liked it. There have been reading classes where the teacher read to the children (under 12 for the most part) and where the children read to the teachers. They have been taken on trips to the park, to the swimming pool and on other excursions which previously no one had the time nor the inclination to do for--or, rather--with them. They have also had lessons in sanitation and attempts have been made to give them some idea of what an integrated living system is--integrated from a view towards living with other people rather than living with people from a different ethnic group.

(2) Observations

The Community Center has served what may be the most valid function of all of the areas of concern. This is because we are reaching people at an age of flexibility; they can grow with the ideas which we believe to be valid; they have not yet been brainwashed into submission to a system which capitalizes on submission. Attached is a list of observations and recommendations with which I heartily concur. They were drawn up by a friend who has worked in the field of community centers for more than a decade, Mr. Thomas Lassiter of Kansas City. In addition to his recommendations, I would hope that we would consider establishing community centers in rural areas which, though less luxurious than Meridian might be able to accomplish, may still be able to do a great deal in Mississippi.

CONCLUSIONS OF SUMMER PROJECT

The Summer Project has been much more of a success than was conceived in moments of my wildest speculation. Though the milleniun has not been forthcoming in Mississippi, the very fact that Bob Mosses and Dave Dennis--along with their colleagues in COFO--conceived of the idea and actually carried it out is significant. There are three areas which I will mention briefly.

STUDENT VOLUNTEERS

As we know, most of the volunteers this summer were white students. This has a value, but it has drawbacks from my point of view. To begin with, those of us who are Negro have certain built-in prejudices against whites, no matter how much we deny them. We--collectively through the years--have been brutalized by a dominant white society so long that we cannot help but have reservations about the sincerity of white folks--even if we are relatives! By the same token, the white students who came to Mississippi this summer have certain prejudices which are built-in. Somehow, all of us--black and white--have to accept these vagaries and <u>begin to deal with them</u>. To me, this is one of the greatest lesson of the Summer Project; we were forced to deal with

one another despite our notions--justified or not--about our classifications. I was impressed with the calibre of the volunteers who worked in Mississippi this summer. Few were beatniks; even fewer were thrill-seekers. For the most part they were young people dedicated, not to saving the Negro in the South, but to saving America. And I suspect that is what we all ought to be about doing.

There were also ancillary personnel who came: doctors, nurses, lawyers, sociologists, psychiatrists, etc. These persons served an extremely important function. In addition to having the advantage of their academic skills, we were able to demonstrate, by their presence, that "responsible people are concerned with America's primary problem to the extent of absolute sacrifice.

Finally, we must recruit more people to come to the south during the complete year. It is not enough to have a"Summer Project," we must have a year-round project where we will involve hundreds of persons in a re-evaluation of what America really is. This can be done in many ways. Those of us who have been--or will are--here, should convince others to come. Those of us in CORE ought to do our best to convince CORE chapters across the country to get members and friends--who will be supported by the chapter--to come here. Only through this long, hard struggle will we be able to affect what needs to be affected.

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MERIDIAN PROJECT REPORT

September 14-25, [1964]

The Meridian Project has just began to start a well-organized political program along with a well-planned community center program. Included in this report is the political report by Joe Morse who is in charge of the Meridian Political Program and a Community Center report submitted by Elaine Weinberger.

For clarification: The following people are now working in the Meridian Office:
Preston Ponder - Project Director
Joe Morse - Head of Political Programs
Margie Henderson - political programs
Eddie Doss - poltical programs
Gunter Frentz - political programs
Ray Robinson Jr. - political programs
Elaine and Eric Weinberger - Head of Community Center
GailFAlk - Community Center
Sandra Watts - Office
Freeman Cocroft - Community Center (expected back Sept. 27th.)

Miriam Kerster - Community Center temporary until Oct. 12
Rick Batdorff - Community Center temporary for at least 2 more weeks
Chris Ranoe - Staying here temporarily until project is set up in Clark County
Jeannie Franklin - Staying temporarily until project is set up in Clark County

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The following is the Meridian Project's Budget: Monthly

Rent	$ 40.00	(Office)
Rent	65.00	(Freedom House)
Food	50.00	(Freedom House)
Utilities	15.00	(Office and Freedom House)
Phone	60.00	(Office 2 exten. and Freedom House and office pay phone)
Supplies	25.00	(including office repairs)
	$255.00	

We have a Core Credit Card so no money is given out for gasoline. The churches have also set up a program whereby we get one hot meal a day. This leaves us with breakfast and dinner to furnish for ourselves. The guys in the Freedom House need food money to buy breakfast food with. The girls get their breakfasts in the private homes where they stay. Money not included in this budget is needed for the girls to pay the people they live with. I did not included it in the budget since most of the families have understood that we do not have any money.

Sandra Watts

POLITICAL REPORT - MERIDIAN COFO PROJECT - 14-25 of September

On September 15, those working on the political program in Meridian had a meeting. Those present were: Joe Morse, Gunter Trentz, Eddie Doss and Margie Henderson. We discussed the goals for the coming all and winter, specifically the organization of Meridian through the precinct and block captain system. It was decided that we would begin by taking one precinct apiece and try to get block captains and precinct meetings set up in those certain areas. (There are 10 active precincts in Meridian) Our objective was to organize each precinct down to the block captain level working directly with the local interested residents. Through this program, we would be able to keep in touch with everyone.

Margie Henderson was assigned to Precinct 6, to find out how well-organized it was. She found that this precinct already had block captains and was conducting Voter Registration workshops two to three times a week. Margie helped Mr. Sloan, the precinct captain, make a file on everyone in the precinct and contact those who were inactive. The 6th. precinct is now perhaps the best organized in the city. The people from this area go to the Court House regularly. The reason for the success of this precinct is its local leadership. Local people are being brought into the workings of this precinct by some very capable and interested leaders. Due to the success of this precinct, Margie was assigned to the 4th. precinct. This precinct is completely inactive and will take much work to get it going.

Gunter Trentz was assigned to the 9th. precinct. For the most part, this precinct was dead since the summer project ended. Gunter visited many of the people in the precinct but found very few real leaders. He has set up voter registration classes for every week and feels the response will be generally very good. Gunter has had one good precinct meeting which stirred up a great deal of interest among the local people. There are only three presently active persons in this precinct, but he feels by contact and the classes this area will begin to organize.

Eddie Doss was assigned to the South Side which makes up the 10th. precinct. This area is the poorest in the city, and has few, if any, leaders. Two meetings have been held in this area with 6 to 7 people attending. So far there have been about the same number who have gone to take the voter registration test at the Court House in the last two weeks. This precinct will require much time and energy, but could be one of the strongest in the city if the local people become active.

Joe Morse, the head of the political program, works in the 1st. precinct. This area is just beginning to get organized. Two meetings have been held in the past 2 weeks

and the precinct captain, Mrs. Crowell, is very active. This precinct should be well-organized within 2 or 3 weeks.

A meeting of the Lauderdale County Executive Committee (Freedom Democratic Party) was held on September 18, 1964. This committee decided to open up Johnson For President campaign headquarters in Meridian. They also decided to hold a freedom election on the first party of November. It will probably be on November 2, the day before the general election. In line with the Johnson headquarters, the committee intends to hold a fund raising dinner in Meridian to raise money for the Democratic ticket.

It was also decided at this meeting, that it was essential for every precinct in Meridian to be functioning on the block captain system if the Freedom Election and a Freedom Day are to be successful. To accomplish this complete organization, Mr. John Sloan and Mrs. Polly Heidleberg, were appointed to talk to every precinct captain and to work with hem to get the precincts organized and functioning. The problem in the local Negro High School was also discussed. It seems the Principal, Mr. Reed, is making it very difficult for those students who were involved in the Freedom School this summer. He has asked many of these students to leave school for insignificant reasons such as the way they were dressed. (Wrong color of shoes, skirts too short and the wearing of "Freedom Now" buttons from CORE) The executive committee intends to work with hem through the Student Union to force Mr. Reed to a showdown on these expulsions.

A Lauderdale County Freedom Rally was held on September 24. Speakers were Rev. R.S. Porter, Lawrence Guyot, Mrs. Jones from Philadelphia, Miss., and Preston Ponder, Project Director. The people were very enthusiastic and high spirited during the meeting. Approximately 125 people attended. Their enthusiasm ceased when they were asked if they would be going to the Jackson meeting of the M.F.D.P. on Sunday, September 27th. It is difficult for the people to transfer their enthusiasm into direct action. During this meeting, plans for the Johnson headquarters were discussed and an appeal was made for a place to open an office. The committee had been turned down on every place available for renting. Most people simply do not want to get involved.

Some contact has been made in Clark, Jasper and Newton counties again. Preston Ponder worked all last week getting old acquaintances renewed. One Voter Registration class was held in Jasper County with 6 people attending. A FREEDOM DAY WILL BE HELD IN JASPER COUNTY NEXT WEEK.

Eddie Doss and Joe Morse have also contacted 4 people in rural Lauderdale County but hey were quite reluctant to hold any classes. However, we will try to get out there again next week. We also hope to have weekly mass meetings to keep the entire city informed of all activities.

MERIDIAN COFO WEEKLY REPORT
SEPTEMBER 7-13 [1964]

The project has just begun to start on its programs again, due to the interuption caused by the Democratic National Convention. We have set up three long-range programs: Voter Registration, Community Center, and a Local Election Program. There is also one project in progress now concerning the integrating of the Meridian public schools. At a staff meeting held Thurs. September 10th. Preston Ponder, project director, appointed Joe Morse to be in charge of the political programs and Gunter Frentz to be incharge of coordinating the school desegregation. The following is a summary of the past week's happenings:

Monday, September 7 - This being Labor Day, no field work was done. Mrs. Chaney and her daughter had a picnic for the staff. On the whole it was a quiet day. Some of the staff prepared reports to take to the Staff Meeting in New Orleans.

Tuesday, September 8 - Two cars left at 3:00AM for the CORE staff meeting in New Orleans. Those attending were: Dr. Erma Gerjuoy, Joe Morse, Sandra Watts, Monte Morgan, Walter Kaufmann, Jim Collier, Jean Wheeler, all staff members and Rev. Barbour, Billie Ray Brown, Roscoe Jones and Alvin Burnside local residents of Meridian and Philadelphia. Freeman Cocroft and Louise Hermey were left in charge of the office. Because of the shortage of staff, no political programs were carried on both Tuesday and Wednesday. The office had two incidents that were complicated due to the absence of experienced staff. One incident involved a local woman being beaten up by a local policeman. One of her friends called the COFO office and two of the workers went to investigate what had happened. This was finally cleared up with the police when it was found out that the woman was drinking and had caused a disturbance. Another call was received at the office from a local family. They called to see if our office could get a sick relative to the University hospital in Jackson. Gunter Frentz who took the call agreed to take the woman to Jackson. Other than these two isolated everything in Meridian was quiet both Tuesday and Wednesday.

Wednesday, September 9, 1964 - The people returned to Meridian from New Orleans and a staff meeting was set for Thursday.

Thursday, September 10 - A staff meeting was held in the afternoon. Staff members plus the local workers were present. First of all Preston Ponder went over some of the discipline rules that will be upheld in the office. Next, he outlined a program that the office will work on. Joe Morse was appointed as head of the political programs. Five people were appointed to work on this program. This group will start setting up block captains in each precinct of the city. These people will be used to get news of meetings to the people in their block and to start working on getting Voter Education classes and Voters Registration programs going.

Preston also laid plans for working in the counties. Since the Convention, no work has been done in Jasper, Newton, Clark, or Kemper counties and if workers do not go out there soon, we will lose all of the contacts that were set up during the summer. The biggest problem with working in the counties is a good car. Our project has four cars (all owned by workers) but none of them run well and are not equiped for running out in the counties.

Plans were also discussed about moving the Community Center. Eric and Elaine Weinberger who are in charge of the Center said that it would be foolish to think of moving the center because the new membrial center should be finished by the first of the year. Plans for moving the Center will be put off until it is found out when the new building will be ready.

Preston also talked about the two incidents that happened when the staff was in New Orleans. He told everyone that we cannot be responsible for the local community's medical problems and that we will have to be careful in the future about agreeing to take people to Jackson to the hospital because of the serious problems it could cause for the Project.

It was also emphasized that from now on no one would be hanging the office. Everyone would have his assignment to work and would come in in the morning to check out and leave to work.

Friday, September 11, 1964 - A meeting was held at Mrs. Chaney's house, Thursday night. Gunter Prentz and Freddy Watson were in the meeting as representatives of COFO. Five local parents were present and discussed plans for entering Chalk School (a white elementary school). They decided that they would go to the school Monday morning at 8:00AM to try to get their children in the school. They also discussed plans about carrying out this attempt. It was agreed among the parents that they would not attempt a "sit-in" but would rather leave the school if they were asked. Friday monring, all of the Voter Registration workers left at 9:00AM for two precincts to try to set up block captains. These workers worked all day and did get four block captains in the 8th. precinct, plus a list of interested

local people who would be interested in attending political workshops. Plans are now be made to have precinct meetings set up in this precinct that include voter education classes. This will also be carried out in all 13 precincts. The workers also canvassed for Freedom Registration and Voter registration. A list of names was obtained of people who would like to go to the Courthouse and register. Plans for helping these people with the registration forms are now being worked out.

Saturday, September 12, 1964 - The workers went out in the precincts again this morning. Jerry Wilson from Jackson also brought money for three of our workers to go to High School. Doug Smith from Hattiesburg, Lillie Chandler a local girl and Alvin Packer a SNCC worker went to Harris High School to enroll in school. Lillie was accepted, but Alvin and Doug were not accepted until their records come from Hattiesburg.

Sunday, September 13, 1964 - Today, the staff was busy formulating plans for the coming week. There was also a meeting held at Allen Chapel for the Student Union kids who wanted to try to register in the white high school and Jr. High school. Five of the staff members were present at this meeting. Roscoe Jones, the president of the Student Union, outlined the plans for the attempted registration. The students will all go to the schools at 4:00PM. They will be driven by local ministers and parents. No COFO workers will go to the schools or drive cars. The students then filled out lawyer's retainers and decided they would go to the white schools immediately after their regular school was dismissed.

Plans for the political program are just starting up in Meridian again. As mentioned before, plans are now to get block captains in each precinct and to start on a wide-scale voter education program. This will just be the beginning. We are also planning to start getting candidates to file for elective offices.

The community center, run by the Weinbergers is trying to get the library organized. They are also working with the children on arts and crafts classes. Their plans include some adult literacy classes at night. The Center, in conjunction with the Student Union are also working to distribute clothing to needy people through the various local churches. Mrs. Chaney is in charge of this program.

Sandra Watts
Meridian COFO secretary
Preston Ponder
Project Director

MERIDIAN PROJECT REPORT

Sept. 26 - Oct. 9, 1964

This report includes a financial statement, a report on general information about the office and staff meetings, a political program report by Joe Morse head of the political programs in Meridian and a Community Center report by Eric and Elaine Weinberger.

Once more for clarification the following people are working in the Meridian Office:

Preston Ponder - Project Director
Joe Morse - Political Programs
Gunter Frentz - Political Programs
Marjorie Henderson - Political Programs
Eddie Doss - Political Programs
Eric and Elaine Weinberger - Community Center
Gail Falk - Freedom School Co-ordinator
Linda Allenstein - Freedom School
Freeman Cocroft - Community Center (expected back Oct. 16)
Sandra Watts - Office
Ken and Elaine Sloat - Political programs
Clark County Staff - temporarily working out of the Meridian office
Mat Suarez - Project Director
Greg Kaslo
Eric Alexandras
Chris Sporol

At a staff meeting held on Ocotber 1, 1964, the staff discussed many problems dealing with personell and discipline. Dave Dennis was present at this meeting. There was a problem with who would be designated Project Director. Earlier, Matteo Suarez came to Meridian to act as co-Project Director with Preston Ponder. This dual leadership created many problems among the staff as to who to turn to for leadership. At the meeting after a long discussion the staff voted on who they wanted as Project Director since it was decided that two leaders would be impossible for this project. Preston Ponder was chosen as the Meridian Project Director and Matteo was chosen as the Project Director in Clark County.

On October 2, 1964 the staff held a meeting. Several things were discussed among these being the security rulles. From now on anyone breaking the rules will be sent to the Project Director and from there to Jackson. The plans for the Freedom school were also discussed. The Baptist Seminary will not be ready to use until at least November so Gail Falk, the Freedom School Co-ordinator is working on getting churches for classes until we can get the Seminary. Meeting times were also set up for the week. There will be a staff meeting every Friday morning at 9:00AM. There will be a meeting of the political staff on every Monday and Thursday at 9:00AM of every week. The Community Center staff will meet every Wednesday at noon.

Another staff meeting was had on October 5, 1964. Here it was decided that the political staff would leaflet in the mornings and canvass in the afternoons. Right now all our energies are being concentrated on the Freedom day and the Freedom Elections. We decided to have a speaker every week for the Mass Meeting in preparation for Freedom Day. It was also discussed and decided that staff people would be assigned churches to attend each Sunday in order to become better acquainted with the community and to get certain messages to the churches.

Financial Report:

On October 6, 1964, the Community Center and the Office opened separate accounts at the Merchants and Farmers Bank in Meridian. Eric Weinberger, Elaine Weinberger and Mrs. Fannie Lee Chaney all signed for the account. Any two of these three names are required to sign a check. The Office opened an account in the name of Meridian COFO (in lieu of a better name) and Sandra Watts and Preston Ponder signed for the account, with the provision of either name signed to any check. The account took a week to clear so no checks were drawn for the past week and the Office operated on individual's money. From now on no money will be given out for food to any of the staff on the project. However, this constitutes a problem. When this rule was formulated we anticipated that all staff members would be receiving their checks on Thursday. However, the only person receiving a check was Preston Ponder. We were told that all those people put on staff in August would start receiving their checks in October. The staff people despertly need their checks since this money could take care of food money which now draws considerably on the office budget. The following is an itemized account of money that will be needed for the Meridian Project: (monthly)

Rent for the Freedom House	$ 65.00
Rent for the Office	40.00
Telephone (two pay phones one for office and one for the Freedom House)	25.00
Utilities (Office)	17.00
Utilities (Freedom House)	7.00
Food for Freedom House (Breakfast) (six people living there now and each will contribute $5 from checks)	20.00
Car repairs (the reason for this figure is that we have such old cars which are in constant need of repair)	25.00
Office Supplies	20.00
Dimes for Pay Phone (had other phone removed)	20.00
	$239.00

Our Credit Card was lost also so we will have to alot money for gas until it is returned. There is also a possiblity that our office will be moved together with the Freedom House. This move would lessen our rent expense $15

To repeat what has already been mentioned in the Political Report, this project is badly in need of a good car. Right now we have one car in operation and it is in very bad condition. We have one car in good working condition except that it does not have insurance and has been sitting out of operation since September 21. The car that belongs to Joe Morse (51 Mercury) is in poor shape and he is considering junking it and using the tires to put on the one good car we have. Out of the four cars we have, one is now in running condition, one is in need of $50 worth of repairs, one has no insurance and one is in need of a new muffler and a new transmission. This problem has complicated things here in Meridian. Much time is spent waiting for transportation since the bus schedule does not run in many parts of the city where we work. It also complicates things from the standpoint that we cannot go to many of the meetings that are held outside the city due to lack of a car that could get us there. We have mentioned the need for a good car so many times in our reports that it seems it is becoming a habit, so whoever the powers that be, please note that the Meridian Project needs a good workable car!

From now on I will be submitting a financial report with each weekly report. It seems that we get our reports in every two weeks instead of every week, but we are trying to correct that situation. I will send the receipts each month to the Jackson office. Since we are starting off with a new bank account we shall also start off with a new accounting system and attempt to keep an itemized account of all money that is spent.

Preston Ponder - Project Director
Sandra Watts - Office

REPORT OF POLITICAL PROGRAM

Sept. 26 - Oct. 9, 1964

The tempo of political activity in Meridian has stepped up a bit in the past 2 weeks. This is due mostly to the fact that we are better organized and now know exactly what we must do, i.e. make the Freedom Day on October 29th. and the Freedom Election on October 31 - November 2nd. both significant political experiences.

We have been pushing Voter Registration classes to prepare people for registration on Freedom Day. Since the last report, we have had 9 classes; 7 in homes and 2 in churches. A breakdown of classes by precincts is as follows: Precinct 1-2classes, Precinct 4 - 1 class, Precinct 6 - 2 classes, Precinct 8 - 1 class, Precinct 9 - 3 classes. The number of individuals attending these classes ranged from one to ten persons depending on how much canvassing was done in the surrounding area before the class. These classes were taught by both COFO staff and precinct leaders. In precinct 1, it is done by the leaders of the precinct. In precinct 4 by a staff person (Margie Henderson) and the precinct captain (Mr. Williams). In precinct 6 entirely by the precinct secretary (Mrs. Turner). In precinct 8 by Joe morse and the precinct captain (Rev. Turnipseed). Precinct 9 is done entirely by staff (Gunter Prentz, Barbara Chaney, Miriam Kerster and Dorothy Knox).

In talking to the local people we have been trying to stress precinct organization, i.e. section captains, and block captains. We have been successful in getting some type of block captain system operating in precincts 1,4,6,8, and 9. Precincts 4,8, and 9 have just begun this organizing. Precincts 1 and 6 have had a degree of organization for about 3 weeks. We will continue to put imphasis on precinct orgainzation with the hope that in a week or two we will be able to start political education classes in most of the precincts, using the Freedom Primer sent from the Jackson Office. The first covers the Convention Challenge and the Freedom Election, which is very apropos material at this time and should arouse interest.

The Lauderdale County Executive Committee met on October 6th. It was decided at th s meeting that 2 churches would be used for the political dinner for Johnson and the Democratic ticket. October 26 was set as the date for this dinner with October 22 being an alternate date. A speaker has not yet been decided upon. The chairman, Mr. Young and Joe Morse were to decide on a speaker. Tickets will be sold by the entire committee as soon as they are printed. The prices will be $5.00, $10.00 and $15.00 a plate. The Committee has been unable to secure an office space for a Johnson campaign headquarters. Unless a truck or trailer can be used for a reasonable price (more reasonable than a Hertz rented truck) it looks as if the Johnson Campaign Headquarters will have to be here in the COFO Office. We have been distributing Johnson bumper stickers and pins for about 2 weeks now together with the Freedom Democrats stickers.

We held a Mass Meeting on friday, October 2, with about 50 people in attendence. It was the Kick-off Rally for the

October 29th. Freedom Day. We talked a little about the programs COFO has in Meridian and spent the rest of the meeting discussing the Freedom Day and the voting laws in Mississippi. The second Mass Meeting in preparation for Freedom Day was held on Wednesday, October 7th. Mrs. Annie Devine was the featured speaker. She talked very quietly and in terms understood by the people. She seemed to get her message across to the people at the meeting. About 55 local people were in attendance at this meeting. We now have about 30 people definitely committed to go to the Courthouse to register on Freedom Day. It seems that it will take much re-contact to get more people to the Courthouse on the 29th. of October. We have found that for the Mass Meetings, it is better to canvass and be sure of getting about 60 people than to leaflet the entire city and have only 30 persons there. We will make a decided attempt before the next meeting to get car pools from precincts to transport the people to the meeting.

On Sunday September 27, we took a car and a bus to Jackson for a meeting of the Freedom Democratic Party. There were about 25 people from Meridian on the bus and 15 from Philadelphia. The bus left at 10:00AM and arrived back in Meridian at 9:30PM that evening. The meeting gave all those who attended a "shot in the arm" and some new ideas on how to work through the FDP.

We also sent 2 staff people to the 4th. District Rally in Canton on October 3rd. We heard James Farmer and other Civil Rights Leaders in Madison County speak about the struggle in Mississippi and its significance to the nation. Joe Morse met a Mrs. Stewart, a representative of the Woman's International League for Peace and Freedom. She was invited, by Joe, to visit Meridian on Monday. Mrs. Stewart accepted the invitation but could only be in Meridian for a few hours before she caught a bus to Birmingham. She was very interested in the whole project and we may be getting some funds from her organization in the near future.

One thing I would like to suggest is that we get a good car on this project. We have only one car in operation now since the police told me that my car had a faulty muffler. I have dicided to junk my car since the transmission also needs work . My tires can be used on another project car which has bad tires. We waste much valuable time waiting around the office for rides. The one car must take care of hauling clothes for the welfare committee, transporting the Freedom School co-ordinator around town, carrying the community center children to and from the park and then it must be used for the full-time job of bringing 6 canvassers to and from different parts of the city. We have wasted up to 2½ hours a day per person waiting for transportation. Cabs are too expensive and the busses often do not run in the right places. Our car situation also makes it impossible to attend any meetings outside of Meridian since none of our cars are in good enough shape to travel out on the highway.

We will try to have political education classes in the individual precincts in the next two weeks.

Joe Morse

MERIDIAN COMMUNITY CENTER

Activities - September 1964

Staff:

Permanent: Elaine Weinberger, Eric Weinberger, Freeman Cocroft (On vacation last two weeks of month)

Temporary: Dr. Irma Gurdjev, (child psychologist, Princeton, N.J.) mid-September 1½ weeks; Gail Falk, teacher; Mrs. Marion Kirsten, social worker, New York City; Rick Batdorff, sculptor, Oregon.

Current Activities

Grade school children:

2:30 to 6 PM (9 AM until 6 PM until school opened)

I. Crafts
Puppet making, doll making, making decorated boxes, making leather footballs and belts.

II. Arts
Finger paintings, water painting, folded paper painting, papier mache and chicken wire sculpture.

III. Reading to children and being read to by them, and singing

IV. Dramatic - extemporaneous puppet shows, and skits with costumes made by the children.

V. Outdoor Activities- Swimming (pool now closed), fishing and frog catching, ball-games and playground activities.

High School Student and Adult:

I. Fabric Distribution - new parcels of very good fabric have been arriving and are being distributed to ladies of the community who come to the center. Recepients of fabric are encouraged to attend voter classes at the center and to register to vote.

II. Clothing Distribution - The clothing distribution program was re-organized. It is under the direction of Mrs. Cheney with help from MSU members. Almost all clothing has been distributed, new shipments expected soon.

III. Tutorial Work - 6:00 PM to 7:30 PM or later every evening, grade school and high school students are helped with their current school work on an individual basis.

IV. A small group has been reading scenes from James Baldwin's "Blues for Mister Charlie". A good deal of interest has been expessed and we expect the group to grow larger and to become involved in rehearsals for a production for this play or another for presentation to the Meridian Community.

V. Library- getting limited general use, a Freedom Corner has been set up consolidating our large selection of books on Negro history, the movement, by and about Negroes, ect. This has attracted considerable attention. Books are being sent out with staff members to precinct meetings so that people can withdraw books without having to come into town.

VI. Spontaneous Activity - temporary staff people occasionally engage casual groups including volunteer staff and high schoolers here for tutorial work in readings from books of poetry, sculpture demonstrations, etc.

Additional programs are now in developing stages. Details in later reports.

On Wednesday, Eric spent the morning at Bethel Baptist Church where clothes are distributed by Barbara Cheney Moss. A staff person should work with her whenever possible to help in limiting quantities per family. Vitamins distributed.

In the afternoon Eric and Elaine did some canvassing in the 4th precinct. We met Mrs. Willie E. Lancaster, 3306 11th St. who housed the Schwerners when they first arrived in Meridian, and housed white volunteers this summer. A member of the NAACP, she showed with pride, a picture of herself attending a NAACP banquet in New York.

We talked about the community Center and its activities and she expressed a great interest in the sewing classes. She has a heart condition and is unable to climb stairs so I suggested that since the sewing machines are portable perhaps we could have a sewing lesson in her house. She was very responsive to this idea and said that she would organize a class, get a few ladies together and have a class in her home.

When the center first started she contributed an electric heater, a school-type desk chair and was in other ways co-operative. She could be a very valuable contact in voter registration work in the 4th. Her neighbors spoke highly of her.

We visited about a dozen homes in the vicinity of Mrs. Lancaster's house. We met Mr. Roberts, a blind man, about 2 doors away who, I hope, the voter reg. people will further encourage to vote. State law provides that he can take the test orally. To all the people with whom we talked, Eric gave a bottle of Squibb vitamins (Dr. Moldovan's shipment) with the encouragement to come to the Community Center for more.

Elaine began typing sides for cast of "Blues for Mr. Charlie".

Community Center Staff Meeting: Weinbergers, Miriam Kersten, Rick Batdorff, Linda Allenstein, Gail Falk.

Miriam will compose new welfare forms, Elaine suggested she give workshop on welfare know-how, etc. Rick will work on getting a table for center, Linda will continue work on setting up day-care center, Gail trying to set up Freedom School.

Vitamins distributed at Mass Meeting in evening, Mrs. Devine spoke.

Thursday: Eric spent day at Mt. Olive Church where Georgianna Dace distributes clothes - found that this distribution point not x functioning but Georgianna does xxx make up boxes for people who submit x COFO welfare forms to voter reg. canvassers.
Attended MSU meeting where petition that will precede Freedom Study Day was being prepared. Staff will assist the "writing committee" later in the week.
Distributed vitamins.
Elaine had sewing class in the morning, afternoon continued work on sides for cast.

Friday: Spent day catching up on general office work, correspondence; worked with children in Community Center.
Evening: Reviewed scene of play with female lead.

October 29, 1964

Miss Sandra Watts
2505½ Fifth Street
Meridian, Mississippi

Dear Sandra,

Enclosed is a credit card to cover the one that was recently lost. It is Phillips card 665-301-924-7. There are undoubtly numerous other points which I should cover in this letter, but there are many more yet to do. No doubt these things will come to me before next time I write.

Sincerely,

Richard Haley
CORE Southern Director

RH/ds

Enclosure

Tues

October 12, 1964

Mr. Haley,

We have received word from one of the Summer Volunteers that there is a girl from Baton Rouge who would like to contact someone working with CO RR in that city. This girl is now attending college in the North but would like to know of someone she can get ahold of when she returns home. Since she is white this is just one more step toward reaching the Southern White Community. Could you please inform this office as to who she could contact in Baton Rouge. Thank you.

Sandra Watts
2505½ 5th. Street
Meridian, Mississippi

C O R E SOUTHERN REGIONAL OFFICE

2211 Dryades Street

New Orleans, Louisiana 70113

523-7204

October 15, 1964

Miss Sandra Watts
2505½ Fifth Street
Meridian, Mississippi

Dear Sandra,

The address of the CORE Office in Baton Rouge is 1501½ East Boulevard, Room 207. The college girl of whom you wrote could contact the movement at that location.

I was very happy to receive the Meridian Project Report. It was both informative and comprehensive. I feel it will be quite sufficient if you would report this bi weekly instead of every week. In this report you mentioned security rules. As a matter of information I would like to know what they are. Also you said that the Freedom School co-ordinator is presently trying to secure churches for class space. Has this been successful? Are any classes now in progress? If so, how many students are presently participating?

Concerning your need for cars, there are three possibilities. One, purchase of several used cars; two, car leases from a firm in Baton Rouge; three, miscellaneous including donations, other lease companies, car rentals, etc. Determination of which direction to move is presently obstructed by the unclear financial picture. However, one of the principal jobs of this office is to see to it that our projects receive at least minimal necessities for operation. I shall attack the problem with energy.

Sincerely,

Richard Haley

RH/ds

Copy in Part for Atty. Belsito

MERIDIAN PROJECT REPORT

October 10 - 16 [1964]

This report includes a political report compiled by Joe Morse, Community Center Report by Eric and Elaine Weinberger, Day Nursery Report by Linda Allenstein and a general office and financial report by Sandra Watts, plus a Freedom School report by Gail Falk - co-ordinator of the School

The staff had a meeting on October 13. Alvin Packer was told of the decision concerning his schooling. It was decided by Gerry Wilson in Jackson that Alvin should return home to Hattiesburg to attend school since Mr. Reed the school principal at Harris Jr. College would not let him attend that school. Several Discipline problems were discussed and it was again repeated that anyone breaking any of the rules would be asked to leave the project. We also discussed the coming Freedom Day. It was agreed that there should be a more intensive effort to concentrate on getting people down to the court house on October 29th. This will be accomplished by a much greater concentration on each precinct. We decided to do canvassing at greater lengths of time. It was also decided to start a FDP campaign headquarters at the office since no building was available to the local FDP committee. This headquarters will be manned by local people and since we received an abundance of material from the Democratic National Committee, there will be no problem of furnishing Johnson campaign mate ial to the local citizens. We also discussed plans to find as many polling stations in each precinct as possible in preparation for the Freedom Vote. The staff also talked about how to tie in the Freedom Day, the Freedom Election and the General Election. A leaflet will be prepared and will be distributed at the Mass Meeting on Wednesday and throughout the city. (see enclosure) We also discussed ways of making the public aware of the Three elections. Plans for this will include the possibility of public street meetings, using a bull-horn, and decorating a car to drive throughout the city. It was generally agreed that we should get down to "old-fashioned campaigning".

At the weekly Mass Meeting held on Wednesday, October 14 at the New Hope Baptist Church the Freedom day and the Freedom Election were discussed. Jim Collier, Project Director in Philadelphia was the main speaker. Local people in the FDP discussed the plans for a fund raising dinner for Johnson and Joe Morse discussed the Freedom Day and the Freedom Vote. Preston Ponder then gave a brief talk on how the three campaigns tied together and how people may vote by affidavit in the General Election. Approximately 85 people, not including staff, attended this meeting and it was judged to be one of the most successful meetings of the past several months.

We have now settled down to a somewhat permanent staff:
Preston Ponder - Project Director
Joe Morse - Head of political programs

Marjorie Henderson - Political Programs
Eddie Doss - Political Programs
Gunter Frentz - Political Programs
Ken Slote - Political Programs
Pinky Slote - Political Programs
Eric and Elaine Weinberger - Head of Community Center
Gail Falk - Co-ordinator of Freedom Schools
Linda Allenstein - Freedom Schools and Day Nursery (tem. will be going into Clark County eventually)
Sandra Watts - Office

Financial Report

This report will include the expenditures for the past week.

The new bank account in the name of Meridian COFO started with$360. $190 of this money was from Jackson ($90 as part of budget and $100 in repayment for the bus we had to hire to go to FDP meeting in Jackson) The other $160 was from private contribution raised in Chicago specifically for the Meridian Project by a woman lawyer who worked in Meridian during the Summer Project. The following is how the money was spent:

(* - Check)

October 12:		
Miriam Kerster	*12.00	repaid loan
Meridian Community Center	*80.00	Split the $160.00 of private contributions between the Office and the Center
Fielder and Brooks	*40.00	Rent on Office
Jimmie Payne	*65.00	Rent on Freedom House
Cash for office	20.00	
Meridian Baptist Seminary	*35.00	For repairs incured during the summer for the Freedom School
Southern Bell	*8.07	Bill for pay phone
Shadwick's Service Station	*7.80	Repairs and gas
Gas company	1.10	
Dimes for pay phone	5.00	
postage	*4.28	
Ken Slote	6.00	repaid for traffic ticket
gas	6.41	
October 13:		
Cash for office	*15.00	
Gunter Frentz	1.00	repaid loan
Preston Ponder	1.00	loan
Office supplies	.50	
Eddie Doss	*5.00	Loan to be repaid
food for staff lunch	4.65	

Alvin Packer	3.25	Bus fare to Hattiesburg

October 14:

Cash for office	*10.00
Food for staff lunch	4.39
Food for dinner	2.00
gas	3.00
Bill for repairs on car (paid part of the bill - total bill was $54.14)	*25.00

This week's expenditures were high because the bills for the first of the month had to be paid. We also came up against some unexpected expenditures like the repair bill for the car and the repair bill for the Baptist Seminary. Receipts for these expenditures will be turned in at the end of the month.to Jackson.

7

POLITICAL REPORT
Joe Morse

Week of 10-16

We began the week by amking up a schedule of events which we called a COFO Calendar. It lists all the Voter Registration classes, community center activity, SSU meetings and the weekly Mass Meeting. We distributed the calendar to all the Negro Businesses, Churches and hang-outs. This should at least give people the idea that there is some Civil Rights activity going on in Meridian. It seems some are completely unaware of any activity.

We started, on the 11th., a concentrated effort to have all staff members in Negro churches on every Sunday. This is a good opportunity for us to meet the people we work with and for them to hear what we have to say. Usually we are given the opportunity to say a few words about the coming events in the week.

All but 3 of the staff here went to Philadelphia on Sunday October 11th. to the Freedom Rally on the Burnside Farm.

Margie Henderson is preparing a list of registered voters in the city, by precincts. We only have about ¼ of the registered voters listed now, but the list is growing daily.

For The Mass meeting this week we were able to leaflet the town by using the precinct organization, we have begun to set up. In about half the precincts we were able to simply give the leaflets to the captains and they in turn passed the material out to others.

In Precinct 9 we had V.R. classes on Monday and Tuesday nights. In Precinct 1 on Tuesday night. Precinct 8 had meetings on Wednesday and Thursday nights and Precinct 7 will have a meeting on Friday evening. Precinct 4 will have 2 classes on Friday evening.

Our political meeting was postponed from Monday morning to Tuesday morning, because some of the political staff was out of town. We dicided to spend as much time as possible talking to small groups of people in homes about the Freedom Election and Freedom Day. This will be done in conjunction with Voter Registration classes.

Ken Slote and his wife had a good meeting on Tuesday with the leaders of Precinct 8. These people in this Precinct are very enthusiastic about organizing their precinct. Usually we get people to these meetings by canvassing the neighborhood for a day or 2 before the meeting.

On Tuesday, we set up an F.D.P. Campaign Headquarters. As mentioned in previous reports, we were not able to secure any office space. In order to desemiate all the material we had, we helped the local FDP set up headquarters in the hallway coming into the office. This is not a very good set-up, but the local people managed to distribute alot of material. This "Headquarters" is staffed by members of the FDP here in Meridian. A large shipment of Campaign material arrived today from the National Democratic Committee - a result of about 3 letters from Margie Henderson to one of the Young Democrats clubs she has contact with.

Everyone canvassed heavily on Wednesday. We are determined to get at least 3 meetins per week in all the "active" precincts, so the people will begin realizing exactly what the Freedom Election and the Freedom Day mean. We made up an information sheet about these coming events and plan to give it to all persons who attended the classes and mass meetings. The mass meeting was a little more encouraging than the ones we have been having. There were more adults and it seems they were willing to let themselves work as they know they must uf progress if to be made. Mrs. Quin from McComb was unable to come to the meeging as we had planned. It seems the transportation in McComb was tied up that evening. On the spur of the moment we got Jim Collier to speak, He was very good and the people liked him. Part of the reason for a better turn out was the presence of more people with cars. These cars had speciafically been recruited by the staff and they usually brought a load of people with them.

At the poltical meeting on Thursday, we decided that we would have to work all the precincts in the city even though we donot have enough staff. This will mean some people will take two precincts and do the best they can with both. Hopefully this will bring more votes in the Freedom Election then just a concentrated effort in only half of the precincts. We will try to have a precinct-wide meeting in every precinct before Freedom Day and the Freedom Election. It looks as though we will have to begin canvassing in the evening as well as during the day to get those people who work contacted. This will involve working in the dark, but we will have to stand added danger to make Freedom Day and the Freedom Election a success.

Joe Morse.

MERIDIAN COMMUNITY CENTER

WEEKLY REPORT - Period ending October 15 - Eric and Elaine Weinberger

Saturday - Eric attended a conference in Jackson on School integration. Elaine did general community center work; distribution of cloth, lending books, working with the children etc.

Sunday - Eric, in Jackson, attended meeting of MSU students which discussed "Work-Study Day" in the evening Eric and Elaine conferred with Miriam Kerster (N.Y. Harlem Social Worker) for more information on welfare forms and general community center recommendations especially in regards to children's programs. Saturday evening a birthday party was held in honor of Barbara Chaney Moss in the Community Center. It was the first such party to be held here. Those attending were staff members and others closely associated with our work. Barbeque chicken, grapes, potatoe chips, chip-dip, cheese and a non-alcoholic punch were served. The party was a great success, as indicated by Alvin Packer's remark that this was the first party at which no liquor was served that he had had a good time. The recreation was dancing, and of course, being movement people we did a great deal of singing.

Monday - Afternoon spent with children. Evening the dramatic group met to continue rehearsal br "Blues for Mr. Charlie".

Tuesday - The children who came to the center were very enthusiastic about the large shipment of Johnson material and stickers that arrived, so Eric took a group of them along with him to distribute stickers. Elaine stayed in the Center with a group of young girls and they made doll dresses out of scrap material, cutting out their own patterns from old newspapers.

Wednesday - Eric and Elaine went canvassing the the 7th. precinct, in hopes of attracting a bigger turnout for the mass meeting that night, and also to talk about the Community Center.

Thursday morning and part of the afternoon, Elaine had a sewing class. Eric spent greater portion of day working in library especially in the 'freedom' section and in going through new shipments (small) of clothes, books, etc. Work with kids after school. Thursday evening - rehearsal of play.

During spare time furing the week we did such things as straightening out fabric cabinet, putting patterns in order according to size, sending thank-you letters for shipments of clothes, books etc. We also sent out postcards asking for return of long-overdue books emphasizing that there is no overdue fee and encouraging continued use of library facilities.

Pinky Slote of New York has agreed to teach an evening sewing class at Mrs. Lancaster's house one night of a week and we hope to have it going by the next week
Both Miriam Kerster and Rick Batdorff left at the beginning of this week so an inordinate amount of time had to be spent with the school children. Freeman Cocroft is due this week-end.

Linda Allenstein
Meridian, Miss.
Oct. 15, 1964

Kindergarten (Day-Care)

A day-care center is planned for Southside. We envision this as a Community project. The Mothers who are not at the present time working would take turns staffing the kindergarten; those who are working would prepare sandwiches. COFO would provide milk and vitiamins. This would involve about 12 women who could staff the center and about 6 who could prepare lunches. We could not handle more than 30 children. There would be probably bi-monthly meetings with all the women involved at which time we would discuss problems of the center, staff schedule, community needs, and eventually political programs.

Southside was chosen for this project for several reasons. It is probably the most economically deprived area in the city. Few of the children have the opportunity to attend the existing kindergartens in the city because of the financial burden. Most of the women involved could be working but cannot because of the pre-school age children at home. We have also been told by school officials that children who have attended a kindergarten do better in school than those who do not. The center would help the mothers by giving them free time and help the children adjust to a school situation.

Southside is also the least politically aware area of the city. We have had little success with our canvassing and leafleting. The center would draw the women together and form the nucleus for our political organization. Once the group is functioning it should be a smooth transition to FDP work.

The leadership meeting on desegration in Jackson last weekend, pointed out the importance of community organization and support to make desegration effective. It was also pointed out that when desegration comes there is a relatively good chance that it will come at the first grade level. Many of the children in the Kindergarten will be 4 and 5 years old. These might well be the ones first affected by a court injunction. After a year of

working in the center these mothers should be ready to send their children to newly integrated schools and to work hard gaining support for their action in the community.

We have already contacted most of he women who would be involved in the program and have found enthusiasm for the plan. We are looking for a place in Southside for the center. We have contacted most of the churches in the area, but have been unsuccessful in this endeavor. We will probably have to rent a building in Southside. At this time we request funds for this purpose.

FREEDOM SCHOOL - 10/16

Literacy classes - 4 or 5 literacy classes with adults have been set up. Most of these adults know how to write the abphabet and spell a few words and want to be able to spell well enough to register to vote. We are starting on an individual basis meeting them in their homes. If and when we get more students, we will begin ... borhood classes. 2 high school students - Lelia Waterhouse and Betty Manuel are beginning to assist in these classes and will eventually take over with some. Barbara Chaney too, I think.

Library - Linda Allenstein and I have been working on sorting that carton after carton of books that we have in storage. There are many excellent books among these and far more books than we can use. We shall see that the best of the books get put in the CC library. Duplications of good books will be distributed to other projects. Distribution of old, second-rate books is a question. For a good many boxfuls, putting them in the hands of people w-- here would only confirm a negative feeling about books. There are some fine and fascinating old books - from a scholar's or collector's point of view. The possibility of selling them to an old book dealer should be explored.

MSU - got as far as drawing up a petition for the Freedom Study Day when they were told there was to be no state-wide boycott and that COFO will not support a -e local protest. We need quickly to find a new direction of action for them, rather with them. The best way to do this will probably be some executive sessions before another student mass meeting. The school is so much the focus of their anger that I think we should consult with Jackson to see to what extent they can support some sort of protest in the schools. Otherwise, the kids may try to find local support for an independent action. I would rather see COFO involved; any local support will come from people like Young with a private bone to pick. The kids are ready to set up a room captain -ee system - a good idea.

Freedom School - We have been frustrated by delays and rejections in trying to get buildings (churches) in which to meet. Rev. Johnson has told us we can use Church of the Nazarene when it is finished in a few weeks. If he remains in Meridian, Rev Barbour will let us use Allen Chapel. We will continue to try to find churches or some building in which to meet - we have submitted a request to the East Miss State Baptist Convention - for the top floor of the Baptist Seminary. This isn't too likely to come through, but there's a chance. In the meantime, classes are set up and are being set up in living rooms around the city. So far French, Negro history, "Freedom," and math are what most of the kids want to take. On Monday I shall beging a series of discussions with some of the older kids on college- how to apply, white Mississippi or northern colleges?, scholarship help, etc.

<u>Needs</u> By far the greatest need, as long as classes must be around the city, is a car.

file friend.

X

MERIDIAN PROJECT REPORT

October 17 - November 8 [1964]

I am sorry for the delay of this report. Things in Meridian have been fairly hetic, what with the Freedom Day, the Freedom Election and plans for the new office. We had another delay in that our political director spent four days in jail right after the poltical election. Anyway we will try to have these reports coming regularly every two weeks.

This report will include: A general report concerning the staff and the new plans for the new office, a financial report for the last two weeks in October, a political programs report by Joe Morse and a Freedom School report by Gail Falk. The Community Center Report is absent from this report due to the absence of Elaine Weinberger who is in Connecticut due to an illness in her family.

Staff Report

Our staff has finally settled down to a permanent group or semi-permanent group. They are as follows:
Preston Ponder - Project Director
Joe Morse - Director of Political Programs
Margie Henderson - Political Programs
Gunter Frentz - Political Programs
Ken Slote - Political Programs
Pinkie Slote - Political Programs
Barbara Chaney Moss - Political Programs (local)
Eric and Elaine Weinberger - Heads of Community Center
Freeman Cocroft - Community Center
Frank Wright - Community Center and Freedom School
Judy Wright - Community Center and Freedom School
Gail Falk - Freedom School Coordinator
Sandra Watts - Office

There are 14 staff members (only one of which is a Negro) and there is a problem of staff checks. As of now, only four people are on staff - Preston Ponder, Margie Henderson, Joe Morse, and Sandra Watts. This creates the problem of taking money from the staff checks for room and board. It is not fair that only four people should be paying room and board at the Freedom House for everyone else on the staff. Freeman Cocroft and Gail Falk were both supposedly put on staff at the Tuggaloo Meeting in August. Freeman has just recently returned from his home but Gail has been here since September. Gunter Frentz is supposed to be financed by his chapter of CORE in New York City (Down Town CORE) but has not received a check for almost two months. Ken and Pinkie Slote are very good workers and are currently just receiving subsistence checks from Mississippi CORE. They both come from New York. Frank and Judy Wright were sent by the National Office to work in Meridian for a month and then go to Louisiania. Eddie Doss who was on staff has moved to the Florida Project.

GENERAL REPORT

The Meridian Project has been asking itself many questions since Freedom Day and the Freedom Election. This report will include; Future plans for Meridian, plans for the new office, 4th. district staff meeting report and some general comments.

The Meridian Staff has been seriously re-evaluating its role in Meridian since the Freedom Election. The staff has come to the conclusion that different tactics will have to be used in Meridian in contrast to other towns in Mississippi because of its size and metropolitan atmosphere. Much of the information and procedures that have been formulated in Jackson are for Rural communities and do not apply to Meridian. The staff also felt that COFO has not been in close contact with the local Negro Community. There needs to be more work done in developing grass-roots leaders and community support of COFO. The precinct system which we have been working on has not been effective in developing this leadership primarily because there has been no foundation laid in Meridian to get to the general Negro population. We feel that one of the main problems is that we have not offered any type of concrete program to the people. Due to the liberal atmosphere of Meridian (as compared to the rest of Mississippi) different tactics are going to have to be used to get the local people involved in the Freedom Movement. The main idea we came up with was forming a Steering Committee composed of around 25 to 30 interested and committed local people. These people are the grass-roots type of leaders and not the already established and well-entrenched Negro Leadership. We are going around to talk to each of the names that have been selected for this committee. Two or three staff members are talking individually to each of the persons on the list about the steering committee and what its goals will be. After all these people are contacted and COFO is moved into its new office, a meeting will be called of all these leaders. From there the COFO staff will ask these people what they think should be done in Meridian and what they think will be the best way of going about it. We have formulated many different programs that could be carried on in Meridian ranging all the way from work on School Desegration to a complete boycott of all stores. These will merely be suggestions. It will be left up entirely to the local people what they think is an important program and how they think it should be carried out. So instead of working on three or four programs at the same time, we will be able to work on one program and make it a success. We also hope in this way to involve those people in the community who can eventually take- over their own programs. We also hope that this will make the local people feel that COFO is their organization and that they should feel free to give COFO their ideas and support. Right now most of the people we have talked to have been very enthusiastic about this meeting.

The New Office

The Meridian Project has been making plans to move the political office into another building. The lease is in the process of being drawn up. We have rented the bottom floor of a building just across the street from our present location. The bottom floor has been divided into two long narrow rooms. One side of the floor will be used for a Freedom House where the male staff members will live and one side for the political office. We are going to paint the inside and the outside of the office as well as build petitions for the political office. The main idea behind this move is to move the political office away from the confusion of the Community Center plus have a nice, clean place where local people can come to discuss programs and problems. The rent for the bottom floor of this building will be $50.00. The Freedom House side of this building will be divided into three parts; a living room, a bedroom and a kitchen. Plumbing facilities are already in the building. We have a refrigerator and a stove that used to be in the Schwerner apartment, as well as adequate beds. We are asking the local people for donations of any furniture they might have. Right now everyone is involved in plans for this office and we feel that it will give the COFO Project in Meridian a big boost.

Fourth District Staff Meeting

On Thursday, the 5th. of November there was a district staff meeting in Meridian. The main problems discussed were the transportation problems in each project and the financial problems, the plans for the retreat in New Orleans and the genreal area in which COFO is moving. It was decided that each project would have to send in a report of what it had accomplished and what progress or errors had been made in that particular area to send into Dick Jewett before the retreat over Thanksgiving so that it could be mimeographed up for the retreat. It was also discovered that each project was having much the same problems with direction and purpose. Many topics were brought up which will be discussed in New Orleans.

General

During the Freedom Election, on Friday October 30, five workers from the COFO office were arrested for distributing leaflets concerning the Freedom Vote. Four of these people were volunteers from Oberlin College and one was a staff member, Margie Henderson. The five people were taken to jail and charged with distributing leaflets without a permit and held under $50 bail. They were bailed out that same afternoon and since then their cases have been removed to Federal Court.

On Monday, November 2, Joe Morse was given a ticket for running a stop light which he did not do. At his

hearing on Wednesday, November the 4th. he pleaded not guilty to this charge and even had a witness to testify that he stopped at the sign. The judge, however, did not see things his way and fined him $10.00 plus $2.00 court costs. Joe refused to pay the fine and spent four days in jail serving out his fine. Since that time I might add there have been no tickets given out for violations which did not really occur.

Sandra Watts

POLITICAL REPORT - Oct. 17 - Nov. 8

Joe Morse

This report will have to be fairly short and without much detail. I have been unable to write this until now and I won't remember too many of the details.

The week of October 18-25 was spent preparing for Freedom Day on October 29th. This preparation took the form of many Voter Registration Classes. We had 14 classes throughout the city during the week. All but one of these were held in private homes. We instructed about 50 people in this registration project.

We had two mass meetings in the week. On Wednesday Mrs. Quin from McComb, Mississippi was our featured speaker. We drew about 50 people to this meeting. Mrs. Quin's talk was actually disappointing. She did not move the people to action in any way we could determine. On Friday evening we were scheduled to have Paul O dwyer, a councilman from New York City, to speak at the mass meeting. On Friday at 12:00PM we were told by Jackson that he could not make it and thus we got a substitute - Mrs. Palmer from Jackson. She talked to a group of about 25 people and rather than delivering a good speech she made some pertinent comments and threw the floor open to discussion to bring the "freedom spirit" to all the people. This meeting did provide some good thoughts and timely suggestions from local people.

The week of October 25 - November 1 is probably one of the busiest weeks we have had in Meridian. It began with a Political Dinner on Monday the 26th. This dinner was put on primarily by the Lauderdale County Executive Committee of the Freedom Democratic Party. The featured speaker was Ozzel Billingsley, a Negro attorney from Birmingham. He spoke on the importance of dedication to the movement and his experiences with Civil Rights in Alabama. It was quite successful with around 125 people attending. The tickets ranged in price from $2.50 for students to $15.00 for the highest priced adult ticket. The Executive Committee made close to $200.00 half of which they sent to the National Democratic Party, in spite of the protests of the COFO people involved and the other half was kept for future work by the F.D.P. in Lauderdale County.

On Tuesday evening we had another mass meeting in preparation for Freedom Day. Mrs. Annie Devine, candidate for Congress from the 4th. District in the Freedom Election, was the featured speaker. We had approximately 30 people in attendence.

On Wednesday's mass meeting, we tried to have as many of those who were to register on Freedom Day to the meeting. Mr. Floyd McKissick, President of National CORE was the speaker. There were 125 people in attendence. Mr. McKissick gave an excellent speech. The local people were very impressed and stated that they could listen to him talk alnight. He identified with the people and talked in simple

terms about very difficult and profound concepts concerning the entire movement, both in Meridian and throughout the entire country. The people responded so well that a suggestion was made to take up a collection for the COFO workers in Meridian to buy food and supplies. This was a real morale booster for us since we had been discouraged with the outlook in Meridian as a center of Civil Rights Activity.

Thursday was our Freedom Day. I will not go into any detail about it because I am preparing a special report on Freedom Day, which will be sent along with the next report.

The following four days, Friday October 30 thru November 3 were spent in working the Freedom Election. This will also be covered in a special report which is not yet prepared. Lauderdale County got approximately 1,500 ballots, which was considerably less than was obtained the last Election. This report will be included in the next report also.

The time from November 2 to November 8th. has been spent largely in appraising COFO's position in Meridian, and setting up our new political office in a building half a block from where we are now located.

FREEDOM SCHOOL REPORT
Gail Falk

Best news - we have a signed agreement from the East Mississippi State Baptist Convention granting us use of the top floor of the Meridian Baptist Seminary for this fall and next spring, provided we pay our utility bills and damages. Will try to begin classes there in a week. In addition to high school classes, will talk with Mrs. Crump about what we might best do with elementary ages right after school, when the high school kids are still mostly involved in activities. Also will start some adult classes. Also high priority to persuade MSU to move its office back to the same room it used this summer - Roscoe earlier indicated he wanted to do this - in order to break the present grip which Young-Darden et.al. have on Roscoe (such that last night he announced that the main activities for the winter would be a Freedom Choir and raising money to bring down some kids from New Jersey - good things but not exactly militant)

Have had a few meetings of a French class with some former FS kids. Also two afternoons of discussion about colleges. Also one meeting each of a Negro history and a Freedom class. These were disrupted by the Freedom Day and Freedom Vote and School Protest. Will start them up rightaway again as a nucleus in the Seminary.

Continue a couple individual reading classes. One particularly good relationship - Lelia Waterhouse and I have been going twice a week to teach reading to a young couple and their 5 year old son. The Nathan Jenkins family.

I've been working on finishing sorting the books stored in the new office - which will be distributed among the Community Center, the Freedom School, Clarke County and Neshoba. We have yet to decide how to dispose of second-rate novels (some kind of book give-away), multiple copies of textbooks like Your Speech and Business English (they are in good condition but I don't expect any of us would want to teach from them) There are also large numbers of children's textbooks, which I think we can distribute to the kids. Also large numbers of old books which we would not want to distribute (I suggest trying to find an old book dealer who would give us, say, $15 for the lot).

It is going to take a lot of talking and working to get Freedom School started again becuase one by product of the school protest has been a lot of anti* COFO propaganda. (I will detail this in a separate writing of the school protest). If Frank and Judy Wright decide to stay on in Meridian I think it would be a very good thing for hem to work with me on setting up the school and be able to take over when I leave in January. They would be good at this and have showed some interest in it.

The week before Freedom Day I spent mostly on political work in Precinct 7 with Barbara Moss. We did alot of canvassing and found some new people who we should work to involve. - Mrs. Helen Nicholson, Mrs. McGlothin, Mrs. Hopkins, Mrs. Dukes. Barbara knows alot of young adults in this precinct and we should try to bring them together.

FINANCIAL REPORT

This report is for the last two weeks in October. October 17-31.

Received

October 19	COFO budget money	$90.00	$118.35
October 20	loan from Jim Collier	10.00	29.00 *
October 28	collection from Mass Meeting	18.35	$147.35
* October 23	Louise Hermey repaid part of her COFO loan	$118.35	

The balance in the bank Account for October 17 was $5.03

Expenditures:

October 17

Cash for ~~office~~ gas	$ 3.00
Gas	1.77
Lillie Chandler - School Money	5.00
Office supplies	1.00

October 18

Gas	2.00
Food	1.00

October 19

Margie Henderson - repaid for loan for Gunter Frentz's bail bond	13.00

October 20

Gas	2.00
Gas	3.00
Key for office	.45
Food for Jackson Trip made by staff	1.00
Repaid loan to Collier	10.00

October 21

Transmission fluid for car	3.00
Gas	2.00
Gas	2.00
Cash for Jackson trip	1.50

October 22

Mimeograph paper	6.00
Office supplies	1.36
Greg Kaslo - repaid for loan of bail bond	10.00
Dyess Garage - repair on Chrysler	14.05

October 23

Bandaides	.65

October 27	
Mimeograph paper	$ 8.36
Gas	1.00
Dimes for phone	2.00
Postage (Clark County $3 - Office $3)	6.00
Gas	2.00
Mississippi Power Co.	12.01
Mississippi Valley Gas Co.	2.13
Food for Mrs. Devine	1.46
October 28	
Gas and Food to take Mrs. Devine home	2.00
Gas	4.55
Mimeo paper and tape	4.59
Driver's license for Ken and Sandy	3.00
Gas	5.20
October 29	
Gas	1.00
Gas (Clarke)	1.50
Gas	2.00
Food	2.00
Gas	2.00
Money for phone	5.00
	*
Balance in Bank - $7.84	$151.58

The expenditures do not equal the amount of money received since many people put their own money into some of the expenses. This money is in such small amounts that it does not pay to list it as money received. Thus many times the petty cash is increased by some private money from individual staff members.

The money spent on gas has now been stopped due to the acquisition of a new credit card. Also the car that was used for Clarke County and the car that was used for the Freedom Election got gas on the office budget.

Meridian

Mr. Marvin Rich
National CORE
38 Park Row
New York 38, New York

Dear Mr. Rich:

I am enclosing the evaluation of the Meridian project which you requested when we were in New York, and hope it will be of some help to you.

Judy and I spent some time when we first arrived working in the community center, and also did some political work, mostly canvassing, before Freedom Day. Recently, we have been working on firing up the Freedom School and plan to teach there, as there is really a lack of people who can give time to this.

I am wondering if there is any possibility of our travelling in Meridian rather than going on to Louisiana. Since we are tired, have been greatly bothered by asthma, and myself a bit also. From what we've heard about St. Francisville, it is surrounded by swamps and would only make the situation worse. We feel, as you can tell from the tone of this letter, that the most needs to be done in Meridian, and I think we can help. Many of the staff, moreover, will be leaving in January or February, and there will probably be a shortage of people. As of now, there are only two people who can possibly be left to teach in the Freedom School if we were to leave. I would really appreciate your considering this and letting us know as soon as possible.

Also, we have not received any money in the month we have been here, and our money is at its end. Could you please send us a check as soon as you can.

Hope to hear from you soon.

Sincerely,

The political aspect of the project has been centering most effort on voter registration, and up until the beginning of November, on preparations for Freedom Day, the Freedom Election, and the National Election. There have been efforts to organize the Negro community by precinct units and a block captain system. However, this has never really gotten off the ground to the point where it works at all effectively.

This part of the movement seems to be in a severe state of non-direction at the moment: neither immediate goals nor methods seem to be clear. The greatest problem is a real lack of communication with the community, which may be due to several factors: 1) reluctance on the part of some community members to associate with CORE because of bad impressions of staff behavior received during the latter part of the summer; 2) the bad appearance of the CORE office (which will be greatly improved when it is moved); 3) lack of an internal organization of the community which could get things moving once a program were proposed; 4) failure of CORE to present a clear-cut program for people to follow. On this last point, I believe there are many people who are willing and anxious to cooperate, but who don't know how. My goal is a mass meeting which attempts to stimulate spirit, but which gives no direction in which to channel it.

At present, all time is being spent filling up the new office, and plans are in the offing to reorganize political efforts. The most important change will be the setting up of a Meridian steering committee, made up of interested and enthusiastic community members. These people, it is hoped, will run their own committee, in conjunction with CORE, will discuss which problems should be attacked, and how they should be attacked. Some prominent Negro leaders, who may be characterized as "Toms", and who would most likely take over this committee immediately, if included, have been excluded. Hopefully, this committee will give the Negroes here a real sense of participating, rather than having CORE always deciding and doing things for them. However, it is difficult to say how successful this will be, or what problems the committee may meet, as it has not yet met.

Testing of public accomodations may also resume fairly soon, with the N.S.U. playing a prominent part.

I feel that, in general, the Meridian project is floundering along at present, and that a great deal must be done in all its various areas, each aspect, on its own, in attempting to reevaluate itself and to get moving. Many plans are being made at present, and it is hoped that their implementation will bring some improvement.

Freedom School

After a successful summer, Freedom School activities had all but ceased until last week, when the entire floor of the Baptist Seminary was secured. Organizational meetings have been held, and a curriculum and class schedule developed. The last week has been devoted to physical improvements and publicity, and classes should resume on the 30th. The curriculum will consist of Negro History, French, Algebra, French, Spanish and Biology, as well as any other course in which sufficient interest is displayed.

There is a real opportunity here, I feel, for the development of an active and cohesive student unit. The school must be transformed into more than a collection of classes, but must be made to serve as the foundation for the organization and articulation of student protest. Thus, in addition to satisfying academic needs, it must also endeavor to awaken political awareness and an appreciation of student potential and responsibility to the movement. This could perhaps be accomplished most easily through a close identification with the M.S.U. (Mississippi Student Union). This organization, which is to have its office in one of the Freedom School rooms, is still somewhat confused as to its function and purpose, and has yet to develop a workable internal structure or any dynamic leadership. However it shows great potential for providing the representation of student dissatisfaction. Hopefully, the Freedom School can serve the needs not only as an intellectual catalyst, but can also function in an advisory capacity as well as provide coordination with other activities downtown.

At present, the school is severely hampered by the scarcity of time in which to conduct classes and other activities. Most of the students are not free until 4:30 and cannot remain at the school much later than that. Although the school will also be open all day Saturday and Sunday afternoon, there is still not really enough time to equal the range of activities that existed this summer. In addition, the staff is also greatly slashed, and will have to depend on much volunteer help from the non-political project.

Another problem may arise from possible overlap of Freedom School and Community Center activities. Without greatly compromising its identity with the high school movement, the school should be able to make its resources available both to adult groups and to younger children. Even now, many of the neighborhood children, for whom the Community Center is too far away, come every afternoon to help with the repairs. It is hoped that some of the high school students can be drawn into special classes to train for work with these other groups. All of this activity, however, must be first coordinated with community center progress in order to avoid ineffort as well as staff function.

COMMUNITY CENTER

With the exception of a small weekly sewing class, a nascent dramatic group, and welfare clothing distribution, the Community Center's activities at present are limited to recreational work with a small group of neighborhood children, and the operation of a library, the resources of which are currently enjoyed more by the staff than by the local citizenry.

Much of what is responsible for this limited involvement in community life can be traced to purely physical factors of location and appearance. The center now occupies several rooms on the second floor of an old building in the shabbiest part of downtown Meridian. Transportation facilities being virtually non-existant, the majority of the city's children have had no contact with the center, while many parents who reside closer are reluctant to send their children into this part of town. Thus, attendance at the center by younger children has been greatly curtailed, usually being limited to those who, if the center were not functioning, would be found playing in the gutters of the immediate area anyway. Even of these, daily attendance is extremely sporadic on some days, none will be present on others, as many as twenty.

As a result, thus far there has been little attempt to organize recreational activity, except on Saturdays, when the children are fed sandwiches and milk at noon and then taken either to the park or the movies. During the week, the center is open to children from 3:00 to 6:00, painting and playing with toys being the main activities. The supply of the latter has been greatly enriched by a generous contribution of discarded toys from Frederhoff of Pittsburg; but there still remains a great need for [illegible] sorts of usable recreational equipment and games, athletic gear, toys, paints, paper, etc. I say usable, because much of what has been received is irreparably damaged or incomplete.

In addition to the disadvantages of the center's location, it is further burdened by having to share its building with the local political offices. The arrangement of the various rooms is such that it has proven severe handicap for both activities. The very staff that [illegible] the youngsters' exuberance and ubiquity of the children, while on the other hand, the latter are exposed to the occasional lapses in behavior on the part of the staff. This proximity has also produced a natural identification of the center with local political activities, which has alienated or frightened away many people who might otherwise have been involved.

Some of the above problems will be alleviated when the local offices is moved to its new location in the near future, which will not only provide isolation, but two additional rooms. And, eventually, of course, the new recreation center will hopefully provide both the needed space and facilities as well as a more advantageous location.

The library, at present, is as overstocked as it is understaffed. Until last week, there were as many [illegible] as there were books. Now, however, these have been sorted and redistributed to the [illegible] to Clarke and Neshoba Counties. One bothersome result of this [illegible] system of book allocation is that much of what is [illegible] unusable texts on obscure technical matters, etc., and thus [illegible] waste of both staff time and postage. If some sort of central [illegible]

could be established in the north, more centers and equitable distribution could be guaranteed for all community

The most pressing need now, however, is the development of a broader base of community interest and participation. This can only be achieved through the formulation of an attractive and varied program of activities, and intensive publicity of the same. At present there are [illegible] one of the new rooms into a handicraft workshop. [illegible] could be sold in the north. An adult version of some of the [illegible] (Black History, Social and Political problems, etc.) should be instituted as well as adequate machinery for the dispersal of information concerning federal programs that are available. In addition, the center must assume the responsibility for literacy and voter registration classes (the latter was [illegible] the political activities people in connection with [illegible], but was [illegible] fragmented and disorganized, and has now lapsed into virtual [illegible]

[illegible] If, for geographical and physical reasons, the center cannot function as a meeting place for classes, discussion groups, [illegible] etc., perhaps the attempt should be made to inspire and sponsor such [illegible] homes. Once these various groups have been established, certain sustaining cohesion, perhaps they then could survive [illegible]

Finally, along with the development of community [illegible] should also be a parallel development of community [illegible] has not been possible for the center to attain any [illegible] at all. For example, we often [illegible] to work with the [illegible] a definite start, and would [illegible] must devote half their time to supervising [illegible] just another [illegible] project, a station [illegible] someday leave for good, there will [illegible] the center, thus condemning it to a [illegible] in the community.

November 13, 1964

Miss Sandra Watts
Meridian Project
2505½ Fifth Street
Meridian, Mississippi

Dear Sandra,

I would like to know the exact number of people who are going to attend the staff conference. Please give the names, sex and race. Also indicate which ones were examined by the doctor at Hazlehurst last summer. Send a carbon copy of your letter to Doctor Dave Levine, 10 West 15th Street, New York City 11, New York. This is very important please get this information at once. Thanks.

Sincerely,

Richard Haley
Southern Director

RH/ds

Meridian

CORE SOUTHERN REGIONAL OFFICE
2209 Dryades Street
New Orleans, La. 70113

DATE November 10 ORP
December 13, 1964 IN

LAST REPORT COVERED Oct 17- Nov 9

FOR PERIOD

PROJECT/CHAPTER Meridian Project

PERSONNEL ARRIVALS/DEPARTURES: AND visitors (include all volunteers who will be staying longer than 2 weeks)

Sandra Watts - leaving Dec. 14 to work in Rankin County, Miss.

Louise Somalyo left project due to illness. See last page

PROGRAM REPORTS (attached) Those checked are included in this report

X	POLITICAL		EMPLOYMENT
X	FREEDOM SCHOOL		HOUSING
X	COMMUNITY CENTER		PUBLIC ACCOMMODATIONS
	FEDERAL PROGRAMS	X	General
	CHAPTER DEVELOPMENT		
X	FINANCIAL		

NOTES (Please include items you consider special and be sure to list future events with dates. Indicate in the body of your report that problems, if any, they present and what assistance you would like

Need information on the Unions, and on Public Accomodations

MERIDIAN PROJECT REPORT
November 10 - December 13

Again, I am sorry for the delay of this report. Too many things have been happening in Meridian that have delayed putting out this report. These things have ranged all the way from expanding all energy in fixing up the new office, to the jailing of several of the staff, to the hearing of the 21 men arrested in the Neshoba cases. Therefore this report will not follow the exact outline that it should. It will include a financial report, a political report, a short Freedom School report, a brief Community Center report and a general report of the Project's activities since November 10th.

GENERAL REPORT

The Meridian Project acquired a new office the month of November. It is in a building about a block away from the old office. The building is large with the bottom floor being separated into two oblong rooms. One of these rooms is used for a political office and the other is used for the Freedom house where the men sleep. Two weeks was spent in readying this building since it was in pretty bad condition. The repairs ran all the way from painting to laying of bricks. The building also has a top floor which consists of one large room. There were provisions made in the lease for the project using this room also. Right now plans are being made for painting this room ans using it for staff meetings for the Fourth District and also for workshops bringing in people from the surrounding counties. This room can also be used for mass meetings. The political office moved into its new office the last of November and the first of December. The old office is now used entirely for the Community Center.

On Friday, November 27th. eight staff people were picked up by the police in connection with a stolen record player. This record player had been given to the office by a sailor. This guy had been coming to the office for about a week. He informed us that he had just been discharged from the service, that he was almost 21 years old, and that he was waiting for his discharge papers to come in. He helped us fix up the office and seemed to be a very nice person. His home was in New York and he seemed very sympathetic to our cause. About a week after he had been coming to the office, he asked Sandra Watts to take him out to a house to get something that he had left there. He said he wanted to get it before he went home. Sandra drove him out to a neighborhood in her car, he got out of the car and then got right back in the car after about two minutes with nothing with him. He told her to get out of there. She then asked him exactly what he was trying to pull. He said that he wasn't doing anything wrong, that he simply had to pick up a TV set that belonged to him. Sandra drove him back to the office and nothing further was said. About two days later, he asked her to drive him out there again and she refused. Later he brought a record player to the office saying that he had been packing up his things and didn't want to carry the record player back to New York with him. No one in the office payed any

attention to the record player. Everyone was too busy getting the office ready. The next day the police came to the office, with a search warrant, broke down the door and found the record player. They arrested eight of the COFO staff who was present in the office at that time. Sandra Watts tried to explain to them what the sailor had asked her to do the one time he had gone out to the house. In other words she was trying to be helpful by telling the police what she thought had probably happened, since he had asked her to carry him out there onee before. (But at that time did not get anything) Anyway they took all eight staffers down to the police station and kept six of them there until early in the morning. They kept Joe Morse and Sandra Watts in Jail charging Morse with possession of stolen property (since the lease for the building is in his name) and Watts with burgulary. Joe and Sandra stayed in the Co nty jail for six days until their hearing. Their bonds were set at $1500 and $2500 respectively. Henry Aaronson, their definse lawyer, at the hearing, advised them to plead guilty to a lesser charge that the District Attorney had set after he heard their stories. Aaronson explained to the pair that this really wasn't a Civil Rights case as such. Even though neither of them had done anything wrong, there was too much circumstantial evidence against them. It would only become a Civil Rights case when they appeared before an all-white Mississippi grand jury. Too many things were out of line that involved Joe and Sandy in a set of very unfortunate cirstances. So at the advice of the Project Director, Preston Ponder, both Sandy and Joe pleaded guilty to lesser charges. Sandy pleaded guilty to willful tresspassing and was fined $250 and six months suspended sentence. Joe was fined $150 for possession of stolen property as a misdeameanor.

Wednesday, December 2 Eight local students and two COFO staff members were arrested in connection with testing of the Civil Rights Bill. The students had just been to the Toddle House and were walking up to the Trailways Bus Depot when they were all arrested for disorderly conduct with John and Jane Doe warrants. They were all put in the County Jail. Freeman Cocroft and Lucien Kabat were also arrested first for loitering, then the charge was changed to contributing to the delinquinby of minors when it was found out that two of the students arrested were only 11 and 12 years old. At the hearing the next day, the students were let go but with a stern warning from the Judge. He explained that he was letting them go because he felt they were lead into this by ot er people. He also stressed that the next time something like this happened, he would punish the people who were behind this. Freeman and Luke were both held under $650 bond apiece and their hearing set for December 14th.

The next day after the staff was out of jail everyone excett Freeman Cocroft went to Hattiesburg for the state staff meeting. Upon the staff's return plans were set up for the Congressional Challenge via the Fourth District's roject Director's meeting and a Fourth District Staff meeting. After the staff meeting on Wednesday, many of the staff stayed over for the hearing in the Neshobab Case.

Sandra Watts

FINANCIAL REPORT

This report will cover all of November and the first two weeks in December.

The following is an itemized list of deposits and money received during the month of November.

At the end of October the Bank Balance showed a total of	$7.84
December 2	90.00
(Budget money from COFO)	
November 2	72.00
(private contribution from ex staff member)	
November 9	50.00
(contibution from Pittsburgh raised by local Meridian woman specifically for Meridian Project)	
November 14	2.08
(received from Security Life Insurance Co. for their part of light bill)	
November 15	20.00
(contribution from ex staff member)	
November 17	500.00
(contribution from Joe Morse's contacts in Minnesota)	
November 17	50.00
(loan from Marjorie Henderson since out of state checks hadn't cleared yet)	
November 20	100.00
(COFO budget check)	
November 20	7.51
(money received from closing out old bank account)	
November 23	32.00
(Jackson repaid us for bus ticket for staff member)	
	$931.43

The expenditures are as follows:

Loan to Sam Brown	4.00
Gail Falk repaid for Gunter's bail and car repair . .	19.00
Office supplies - 3x5 cards and markers	5.68
Loan to Mrs. Chaney	12.00
Parking tickets	5.00
Repaid loan to Preston Ponder for gass	10.00
Parking Tickets	3.00
Joe Morse repaid for gas	10.50
Postage	.50
Gas	2.00
Steel brushes and putty knife	3.14
Rent on old Freedom House (just partial rent since we moved first of month	10.00
Preston Ponder expenses for local people in Gulfport trip	20.00
Paint for new office	15.00
Joe Morse utility deposit for new office	37.00
Charles Prickett bus fare to Canton	4.00
Gail Falk transportation	1.68
Water and sewage for old Freedom House	9.14
Mississippi Power Co. light bill	18.83
Mississippi Power Co. light bill on old Freedom House .	3.57

Financial Report (cnn)

Paint for building	2.00
Gas Co. Old Freedom House	6.16
Mississippi Power Company Community Center	9.25
Telephone Co. pay phone	.52
Neshoba Democrat . . . . paper	3.00
Clarke County Tribune paper /	4.00
The Newton Record paper /	2.00
Paint for New building	9.58
Paint for new office /	10.50
Paint for new office	5.50
Repair on power saw	9.28
Preston Ponder loan	1.00
Postage	1.00
Marjorie Henderson food ,	1.00
Paint for new office	12.00
Gunter Frentz	35.00
wire cutters	3.00
repaid loan to Philadelphia roject	20.00
Ken Slote repaid for expense on new office	12.00
Gail Falk repaid for expense on new office	30.00
Preston Ponder repaid for expense on new office	31.30
Sandra Watts curtain material	10.00
Shadwick's Garage repaid for bounced check that Philadelphia cashed at the garage	125.00
Joe Morse building supplies	63.00
Marjorie Henderson repaid loan	20.00
Rev. Witherspoon rent on new office	50.00
Fielder and Brooks .rent on Comm. Center	40.00
Ken Slote building expense	30.50
Loan to Louise Somalyo	6.00
Joe Morse repaid for lumber for new office	11.36
Loan to jim Collier	10.00
	$767.47

December 1- 13

Received:

COFO Budget check	90.00
Northern Contribution	15.00
	10 5.00

Expenditures:

Ken Slote . . . . . repaid loan for new office. .	26.00
Office supplies	10.00
Mimeo paper	8.88
Office supplies	10.00
New Office	4.65
Correction fluid and envelopes	5.89
Willie Moss personal loan	10.00
Food for staff meeting	10.00
Parking tickets	8.00
money for phone	1.00
Groceries for Freedom House	2.64
Phonecall to Batesville	2.00
Joe Morse gas.	4.00
Rent for new office	50.00
Bank Ballance ------- $104.67	$155.06

Sandra Watts

POLITICAL REPORT

The political program had come to a standstill after the General Election. At a staff meeting it was decided to have a meeting with the various people in the Meridian Community who the staff felt were the potential grass-roots leaders. A list was made of about 35 people and a meeting was called for on November 22. At this meeting the people decided that the best way to get Meridian moving was through testing. They were very enthusiastic and excited. The Freedom School was also conducting testing and it was decided to let both groups work on this project provided that they go to non-violent workshops with ~~their~~ Eric Weinberger. The COFO staff was rather hesitant about this project since the Jackson office had set a policy about no testing. It was decided to let the people go ahead and do what they wanted to do but try to keep as little staff participation as possible until the state staff meeting in Hattiesburg where a policy would be set down. The testing was conducted mainly by the students and an incident happened at the Toddle House which was reported in an earlier page.

The Steering Committee had their next meeting the next Sunday and talked about Maids Unions and economic plans they could set up. At their third meeting the commettee decided to have a Silent Prayer service before the hearing of the 21 men arrested in the Neshoba Case. Unions were further discussed and Mary Slote said she would write various people to find out what could be done. After the Hattiesburg meeting and the information about the Challenge the staff began talking to the people about the importance of the challenge. As has been mentioned before, the FDP has not been running in Meridian, due to the Uncle Tomish leadership from the president of the Executive Committee. However, An FDP Executive committee meeting was called for Friday, December 10. Mr. Young the chairman of the Executive committee was present along with four other ladies on the committee. This committee decided to push the Congressional Challenge through the precinct organization and to donate the money raised at the LBJ fund raising dinner to the Washington D.C. trip. The committee also decided to have new elections for the Executive Committee at the County Convention which will be held December 18. The importance of re-registration was also discussed.

The steering Committee met Sunday, December 13, and discussed the Channlenge. Three local people attended the workshop in Batesville and discussed the Challenge explaining it to the other people present. It was decided to have workshops up until the County Convention on the 18th. As it stands now, workshops are being set up all over the city with local people and staff people explaining the Challenge to the poeple. There will be a County Convention on the 18th. to choose people to go to Washington.

FREEDOM SCHOOL REPORT

The Freedom School has now been in operation since the first of November. GailFAlk co-ordinator and Frank and Judy Wright and Luke Kabat have been working in the school. The classes start at 4:30PM for the high school students. The lowest level is the 7th. grade. From 3:30 to 4:30 the younger kids have reading classes at the school. The classes include English, French, Math, Science, Negro History and a Class called Freedom which discussed the Movement. Attendence has not been too good but students are being contacted all the time. The students are all eager to test and have been conducting tests every night after Freedom School. The students are also planning to raise money for the Challenge but these plans are still in the planning stage.

COMMUNITY CENTER REPORT

Since the Community Center has now been moved left alone in its own building new plans are being made. Eric Weinberger plans to set up a leatherworkshop in one of the rooms. There are also plans being made to have a Kindergarten in the morning with local mothers helping with the children. Sewing classes are still going on as is the play period after school every day. Freeman Cocroft is working with the younger students. A more complete report will be submitted by the Weinbergers.

I am sorry for the brevity of these two reports but it has been impossible to get the leaders of these two projects to write out their reports at the same time. I am trying to give you an ideaof what has been going on in these two areas. The next report will be more complete.

Staff Report

Preston Ponder - Project Director - leaving for school in January
Joe Morse - Political Programs - staying through the summer
Marjorie Henderson - leaving for school in late January
Freeman Cocroft - Comm. Cnt. - leaving for school in late Jan.
Luke Kabat - Freedom School - leaving for school in late Jan.
Gail Falk - Freedom School - leaving for school in late Jan.
Frank and Judy Wright - Freedom School - indefinite stay
Eric and Elaine Weinberger - Comm. Cnt. - indefinite stay
Ken and Mary Slote - leaving for New York in March
Gunter Frentz - political programs - indefinite stay
Sandra Watts - leaving December 14th. to work in Rankin County
Barbara Moss - political programs - local worker.

Sandra Watts will be leaving the Project on the 14th. of December for Rankin County. Mary Slote will take her place in the office. All communications should be addressed to her.

[1964, Dec 15]

MERIDIAN PROJECT REPORT

This report will cover December 15th to January 13th. The report on the weeks between December 15th and January 1st will be sketchy, due to the fact that most of the staff went North for Christmas.

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CURRENT STAFF

George Smith Jr., Project Director
Joe Morse, Director of Political programs
Gail Falk, Director of Freedom School .....Leaving Jan. 15th
Eric Weinberger, Director of Community Center
Preston Ponder.... leaving Jan. 15th
Ken Slote.....Leaving Jan. 13th
Pinkie Slote....
Frank Wright
Judy Wright
Louise Somlyo....Leaving Jan. 28th
Gunter Frentz
Margie Henderson...Leaving between Jan. 15th & 18th
Sam Brown
Willie Clark....Leaving Jan 13th
Barbara Chaney Moss

REMAINING STAFF AND ASSIGNMENTS

George Smith Jr., Project Director
Joe Morse, Director of Political Programs, MFDP & Freedom Vote
Frank Wright, Director of Freedom School, Newspaper
Eric Weinberger, Director of Community Center
Judy Wright, Freedom Schools and Office, school desegregation
Gunter Frentz, Testing Coordinator, school desegregation
Barbara Chaney Moss, Political Program
Sam Brown, Political Program

COMMUNITY CENTER REPORT

Jan. 5 - Arrived back in Meridian at 11:00 P.M. Moved into Center to live.
Jan. 6 - Since Elaine is not here, Judy Wright agreed to take the sewing classes if they can be re-started.
Eric's afternoon grade school group worked with a tape recorder.
Jan. 7 - General clean-up. Children played with new dart game. Freeman Cocroft left to return to school
Jan. 8 - Repair of broken downstairs window and upstairs door. Phone moved to political office. Long staff meeting. MFDP steering committee meeting in evening.
Jan. 9 - Small grade school group all day.
Jan.10 - Grade school group in afternoon.
Jan.11 - The Free Southern Theatre gave PURLIE VICTORIOUS at First Baptist in the evening. Eric and Sam Brown experimented with copper enameling equipment just acquired.

FREEDOM SCHOOL REPORT

From the beginning of November until Christmas vacation, we had Freedom School on the third floor of the Baptist Seminary every day from 4:30 to about 6:00. While there were sporadic good classes, this did not work out too well because very few students came, for alot of reasons; the hour, homework, parents, cold rooms. We have not opened FS since vacation and it is up in the air right now about what to do. I would

recommend that, rather than struggling to try to have regular classes, the time be spent in intensive individual work with the kids we do have. For instance, I have been tutoring Bettie Manuel in algebra, French and Plato - very successfully.

I have made arrangements for Bettie Manuel and Willie Clark to go to school in the North. Willie will be living in New York with Ken and Pinkie Slote; his school is still undecided, but Bettie will go to Newton High School in Boston.

When I'm in the North, I'll try to collect more information on college counceling for kids, which needs more attention.

Roscoe Jones called about three MSU meetings, the first since the silent protest. They have been attended by 15-20 kids, sadly small compared to the enormous meetings last summer. I have only attended the meetings and offered technical help. Roscoe seems to be recovering from his recent immobility and is beginning to move again. He had too many "advisors".

TESTING Gail Falk

By mid-December we had collected a large number of affadavits from testing the public accomodations section of the CR bill. I worked on organizing these, working with George Smith on getting people to test places which had not yet been tested, and working with the lawyers on setting up a case. The plan is to institute a suit against all the restaurants in the downtown area. Also, the Royal Theatre. There remain only a few establishments which haven't been tested. In connection with this, I've had long talks with many managers of restaurants, especially Mrs. Phipps of the Triangle and Mrs. Gray of Merchant's Grill.

Have been part of most of the testing, as a white spectator, and have seen that the affadavits get written. Have been doing all the coordination of this with the Jackson Office and lawyers.

Gunter Frentz

Have organized a group of ladies to use "white" laundromats in groups of two or three. This had led to conferences with the owners of the laundries, especially a Mr. Reilly, who owns about five of them. All the owners agree to desegregate "if everybody else does"; all except one hold-out, who may come around yet. Mr. Reilly has agreed to repaint all his places, omitting the "white only" signs.

WHITE COMMUNITY PROJECT

We have had several spontaneous visits recently from young, local white girls. The first one told us that she had heard so many incredible things about us that she decided to see for herself. Some of the things she told us about our "reputation", prompted Judy Wright and Pinkie Slote to work on a "brochure" about WHAT IS COFO for mailing or distribution to the white community.

Gail has had two excellent long talks with Judge Neville, who is on the Citizen's Council blacklist. Judge Neville agreed to try to arrange some meetings with people in the white community and left us with the feeling that there are enormous opportunities for us in the white community here. He further suggested that the city attorney (Mr. Goldman) is somewhat friendly to us and might be

helpful in ridding us of Lee Roberts, our bloodhound in the police department.

In the second meeting, Judge Neville was helpful in answering our questions about city and beat elections. We couldn't seem to find the information we needed elsewhere (we are hoping to run some candidates for these elections), and the Judge, and Mr. Reedy, a local white lawyer were very friendly.

MISCELLANEOUS

Judy Wright has been preparing a mailing to go out to the people who donated money in her recent fund-raising in Boston.
Pinkie Slote sent a mailing (form enclosed) to the telephone companies in various cities, asking that they forward it to the person whose phone number was on the envelope. The object was to ask people who phoned collect during the summer, and thus ran up our huge phone bill, to volunteer to foot ~~the~~ their part of the bill now. Then CORE stepped in and paid the bill, but we have gotten a small response to the mailing and will send what we get to CORE. We feel kind of honor-bound about this bill.

The arrival of George Smith as project director has really galvanized this project; he seems to have all the talents we need most and is extremely organized. We find ourselves keeping the office cleaner than ever before and working hard and systematically. We are going to be very short-staffed, but feel that the project is really going to start moving...especially since our FDP steering committee has a new Chairman and is solidifying nicely.

POLITICAL REPORT

During the past month we have worked almost entirely on the Freedom Democratic Party Congressional Challenge. We began setting up workshops for members of the party on December 10, to explain the challenge in detail. There seemed to be quite a bit of interest in the possibility of again showing the nation that Mississippi Negroes were not about to wait any longer for rights they are guaranteed in the Constitution.

Between the 14th and 18th of Dec., the FDP held precinct meetings in some of the pricincts in the city of Meridian. These precinct meetings were not as well attended as we had hoped - there were from 5 to 25 persons at each meeting. The FDP is having trouble finding meeting places in Meridian...the ministers of the city decided in a meeting of the Ministerial Alliance that since the FDP is under a court injunction, they wanted nothing to do with it. This was quite a setback for us. It looks like ministers the country over are usually the last people to become concerned about their people. Their first concern is to "keep their hands clean by keeping their hands off". The FDP now has only 2 places to hold meetings; the Meridian Baptist Seminary where we hold Freedom School, and here in our office, where we can seat about 35 people, if need be.

The FDP held its county convention on Friday, Dec. 18 to determine who will go to Washington for the Challenge. The Lauderdale County executive committee decided that at this county convention, a new executive committee should be chosen. They have found that only about half of the originally elected committee members come to their weekly meetings. The way it turned out, the county convention was a flop, only 12 people showed up. From all indications, it seems there had been some feeling against the FDP by the local "Tom" leadership. They realize that the FDP is capable

of organizing the poorer class of people and therefore it is a thrust against the position of the "Toms". They had apparently suggested to many people that it was not good and very dangerous to attend this county convention - as a result, many people were scared out. Most of the 12 people in attendance wanted to go to Washington. Tentative plans were made then. They did not elect an executive committee as such, but decided to merge the steering committee of Meridian and the Lauderdale County Executive Committee until they were able to get more participation from others in the community.

The Meridian steering committee consists of about 10 of the most active people in the community. They work on such things as school desegregation, testing, the congressional challenge etc.

It was very strange to see more people going to Washington than had attended our county meeting - it seems to be additional proof that the people here were intimidated before the county convention. This is the way the whites of Meridian manage to hold down any attempt of the Negroes to organize. They use the Negro "Toms" as mouthpieces and are much more effective and much less conspicuous than if the intimidation were done by the whites themselves.

As it turned out, we had 16 people from Meridian going to Washington. Gunter Frentz, Gail Falk, staff members, went along as drivers. Gunter also acted as a picket captain while in Washington during the White House demonstration.

4 high school students went from Meridian and the remaining 9 were adults from the community. Ken Slote was the transportation co-ordinator for this trip. Financing came from an FDP fund-rainsing dinner in October and partly from donations by those in the cars. Gas and oil cost about $75.00 for each car. 2 cars went from here: the project station wagon and a car owned by the only Negro minister active in the FDP here. Four of our people went by bus. They all left on Jan. 2 or 3 and arrived home on Jan. 8.

The people were very excited by the trip and held a very lively meeting on Jan. 8. Serveral reports of the trip were given and a discussion was held on every department and agency visited. The welfare Dept. had given them new insights into how they could get Negroes actually to receive the compensation they should be justly given. Some had met with the Health, Ed., and Welfare Dept. and had been told that Negroes had a right to be on the staff of the local agencies. But most of all, these people saw in Washington how the Federal Govt. was willing to give them only what they demanded and then often what they gave was only "Tokenism," something they have been receiving from the white man for hundreds of years.

The next phase of the challenge will be the taking of depositions. Ken Slote has taken names of possible witnesses from our incident reports and Freedom Day affadavits. We have now about 19 or 20 good evidences of discrimination and harrassment in Lauderdale County.

We have begun to work in earnest on a Beat election which is coming up on March 9. The FDP has decided to try to run aNegro in this election. So we will have to have an independent nominating petition in by January 28. Until then we will need to spend more time in Lauderdale County - rural area.

Also we intend to run at least one Negro candidate in the city election in May. Between now and June 8, the date of the city election, we will have a huge job of publicity to do. It may be possible to elect a Negro running as an independent because the way things are set up, the entire city elects all the coundilmen. ~~and they all run~~ We may have enough registered voters city-wide to elect one candidate.

Right now the political staff is working very hard to get asmany people as possible registered to vote before the deadline of February 8. Since it is too late to have people take the registration test, in time to vote on June 8, we are concentrating on those people who have already taken the test. We have the names and addresses of about 200 Negro people as they were printed in the newspaper in the past two months. These people have been meeting with all types of discrimination. Often the registrar tells them that "I can't find your name or application" - even after their name appeared in the paper as having taken the test. The people are also being told to "come back in late February," too late to vote in the city election. We are currently checking and rechecking these people who we know took the test.

George Smith, project director

Pinky Slote, secretary

FINANCIAL REPORT Jan 1 - 13

Meridian

Received:

Local contribution (ananymous)	$ 5.00
Northern contributions (Howard Gerber)	10.00
(Marjorie Henderson)	50.00
(collection made by Frank and Judy Wright)	200.00
(Kalomi Club)	30.00
Response to "phone mailing" (Norma Becker)	2.00
Refund from phone company	.12
Left over from Washington trip (held for FDP)	20.00
Change left over from expenditures (mimeo paper)	5.92
* (License plates)	22.00
	$355.04
	(345.04)

Expenditures:

Service Charge at bank	$ 2.25
Greg Kaslo - reimbursement for loan to Jonnie B. Chaney	5.00
Meridian Star - Dec. subscription	2.00
Jonnie B. Chaney - loan for utility bill	10.00
Stamps	.25
Cleaning materials (Mr. Clean etc.)	1.00
Loan to Chaneys (via Johnny Young)	3.00
Gunter Frentz - living expense for next 5 weeks	50.00
Rev. W. M. Witherspoon - rent for dec. on office	50.00
Miss. Valley Gas Co. - service to 12/22 on Comm. Center & Office	35.00
* Judy Wright - license plate for Dodge Station Wagon	32.00
Preston Ponder - repair of tire	3.00
Ken Slote - glass for repair of front door of Comm. Center	4.00
Joe Morse - mimeo paper and key made	2.15
Joe Morse - dimes for phone	2.00
Sam Brown - bus fare to go canvassing	.30
Mail package to FDP and stamps	1.46
Dish pan and tax	1.05
Otis Milsap - loan to man in Jasper County, to be repaid	40.00
Cash - petty cash and dimes for phone	10.00
Sam Brown - loan	5.00
Louise Somlyo - bus fare to go canvassing	.30
Disappeared from cash box	1.33
	$251.09

	Receipts	$345.04
	Expenditures	251.09
		93.95
	Bank balance 1/1/65	15.54
	Petty cash "	6.47
What present assets <u>should</u> be		$115.96
	Bank balance 1/13/65	111.29
	Petty cash "	4.70
What present assets <u>are</u>		$115.99

COUNCIL OF FEDERATED ORGANIZATIONS
513 25th Avenue
Meridian, Mississippi

Dear _____,

We don't know your name, only your telephone number. You see, it is on our telephone bill.

We are writing to you for help. During the summer, in August and September, alot of long distance calls were made from the phone at the COFO office in Meridian, Mississippi. The result is a phone bill totaling over $400.00, which we are unable to pay. The phone company, understandably, will not give us telephone service (not even a pay phone) in our new office, and without a telephone, our work here is crippled.

We hope you won't regard this letter as a "bill" -- it's not. We just imagine you are in sympathy with our work, since someone you know was here during the summer and in contact with you. If there is someone else we should write about the call(s), please let us know. The charge from your number we are being billed for is $_____ and we would be very grateful if you would assume responsibility for it and send us a check in this amount.

Thank you very much.

Sincerely,

Meridian COFO

Sandy Watts' last report covered up until December 13. This one will cover Dec. 14 through 31.

RECEIVED:

Bank Balance as of Dec. 14		$104.67
Petty Cash "		1.36
Received		
Budget Check.		45.00
Northern contributions	(Ann Pittendrigh).	15.00
	(visiting student)	5.00
	(Gail Falk).	.55.00
Assorted change found		.16
		$226.19

EXPENDITURES:

Office expense and postage	$ 5.00
Sandra Watts - repaid for Jim Collier's bail	30.00
Joe Morse - supplies for new office.	23.00
Barbara Chaney Moss - loan	10.00
Kenneth Slote - stamps, floor cleaner, can opener etc.	3.24
Philadelphia COFO - loan	10.00
Gunter Frentz.	2.50
[illegible]	[illegible]
Miss. Valley Gas Co. - bill on old Fr. House and Community Center.	5.92
So. Bell Tel & Tel - phone for old " " " "	28.00
Meridian Police Department - old parking ticket.	1.00
Miss. Power Co. - electricity for Community Center	8.31
City of Meridian Water & Sewage Dept. - water for new office	6.86
So. Bell Tel & Tel - part payment of THE bill	10.00
Fielder and Brooks - December rent, Community Center	40.00
Cash - Keys made for George Smith	1.05
Miss. Power Co. - electricity for Community Center	12.76
Disappeared from cash box.	4.00
Miss. Valley Gas Co.	2.09
	$204.18

		$226.19
		204.18
Bank balance & petty cash, as of Dec. 31, 1964		$ 22.01
	Bank balance.	$15.54
	Petty cash	6.47
		$22.01

MERIDIAN PROJECT REPORT

(Jan 13,-Feb. 11) [1965]

CURRENT STAFF

George Smith, Jr. Project Director
Joe Morse, Director of Political Programs
Eric Weinberger, Director of Community Center
Frank Wright
Judy Wright
Sam Brown
Wm. Knighton
Mrs. Catherine Crowell
(other local people)

PROJECT DIRECTOR'S REPORT

We are now in the process of turning all of the responsibilities over to the local people, (such as bills for rent, utilities, etc.) This problem was talked about in a committee made up of local people. The question was: should the office be closed and the staff move out into the community until the community finds a need for a central office and can support one; or should we keep the present office, and move the community center into the other side of the office, which is now living quarters for two of the staff. The decision was made to move the two staff people into the community and move the Community Center into the office building---with local people taking responsibility for the financial upkeep of the office. ~~xx~~

At present we have five paid staff members in Meridian: Joe Morse, Frank Wright, Judy Wright, Eric Weinberger, and George Smith Jr. It has already been agreed upon to move Frank and Judy into Newton County. Eric Weinberger, along with two of our local women, will run the Community Center. Local people have already begun to work out in the rural area of Lauderdale County, and they are doing a very good job. Local people are also working in the Meridian City area to try to organize the town. We are having problems with the Uncle Toms of Meridian, but we are trying to overcome them. We have begun to have workshops at least twice a month for the local people along with the staff...to try and educate them more about the movement, political action, how to organize the community, and some of the other problems they may be confronted with in canvassing.

MERIDIAN COMMUNITY
CENTER REPORT

The center is being moved from 2505½ 5th St. to the back rooms at the COFO office at 513 25th Ave. The main purpose of the move is economy, but additional gains will be that the office is attended 24 hours a day and therefore has much less of a theft and vandalism problem than the center does at ~~xx~~ its old location. The new quar-

ters will be smaller and can be more thoroughly supervised by one person than the old. Storage room for the tons of unused equipment has been rented (part of the old quarters) for five or ten dollars a month, final price not yet set. The move is expected to be completed within one or two weeks.

any for transfer

FREEDOM SCHOOL

Freedom School activities have virtually ceased to exist. During the Fall we were able to secure the thirt floor of a former Baptist Seminary and fixed up several classrooms and a lobrary. Due to heavy homework, afternoon jobs and chores, and the early hour of sunset, the students' response was small and sporadic. Since that time, classes have been stopped altogether, and we have now begun pushing for small evening get-togethers in the gomes of various students. We don't see any hope of reviving a full time FS program until the summer.

The MSU os also in a very unhealthy situation at this time. Our three strongest keds have all gone North to school, but the real problem is that this group has no real idea of why it is in existence, and is continually floundering over peripheral problems of membership and organizational structure, rather than the basic one of purpose.

MSU statewide meeting?

NEWTON COUNTY PROJECT

The Newton County Project got under way last week, when on Feb. 3, George Smith, Mrs. Catherine Crowell, and I made contacts with people in Newton and Decatur, the county seat. We made arrangements to speak at various church services during the next few weeks:

Feb. 7- Hickory Methodist Church
Feb 14* Newton Methodist Church
Feb. 21- Decatur Baptist Church

Decatur seems to be the best place to set up any kind of permanent HQ. It is the county seat, it has a tight, self-contained Negro community, and we have found some very strong people there. There has been virtually no vother registration activity in the area, but the people we spoke to are ready for VR classes, a Freedom School, and are very interested in getting into the several shirt and chair (all Northern owned) factories in Decatur.

factory names + addresses

An FDP structure was set up by Bob Gore this summer in Newton, but it was apparently allowed to die out. Those involved were all NAACP people ald all active before Bob arrived, but we have not had a chance to talk to any of them yet.

WELFARE

The welfare committee consists of five local women. We have a committee of two to canvas all neighborhoods that seem to have quite a number of children and talk with the parents to see if the children are in school, and if not, why. If it is because of a lack of clothing, we try and give them clothi

children are in school, and if not, why. If it is because of a lack of clothing, we try and give them clothing so that they may stay in school. We also talk to the parents to get them to register to vote if they have not already done so. We try and find all elderly people that can't come to the Welfare office , and if they are in need of clothing, we pack a box and send it to them. We are going out into the rural areas and helping the needy families, those that are not able or do not have ways or means to get to town. And by going out into the rural areas we can help people not only as far as clothing goes, but we plan to teach them how to register and vote. The people in rural Lauderdale seem very anxious to get registered, and we think that by having something to offer them like clothing, they don't feel afraid to try to register or vote--in the event that they would lose their job if they would try to register to vote.

Mrs. Catherine Crowell

STEERING COMMITTEE REPORT

We have approximately 25 people on our steering committee, and we meet every Tuesday night at 7:30, with about 10 or 15 in attendance. Our activities are as follows: teach voter registration classes of two or more in the COFO Office and in private homes; test eating places cafes, drug stores, variety stores; attend any meeting of COFO that is not primarily for the staff members, such as state and county workshops. The welfare committee, headed by Mrs. Chaney, distributes clothing, shoes, etc., five days a week. Two or more go into surrounding areas to talk to people in churches and homes, urging them to register and try to pass the test.

what success in tests

Mrs. Carter

POLITICAL REPORT

The politica l activity on this project has been rather diviesified during the past three weeks. Basically, we have been doing four things: preparing for the city election in June, participating in the FDP Congressional Challenge, canvassing the city to interest people in federal programs, and contacting people in Rural Lauderdale County.

what programs

The preparation for the city election has been done mostly by talking to different persons in the community. The problem here in Meridian is that we have very effective "Uncle Toms". There are some four Negro political groups here.: The NAACP, run by the Negro businessmen with an interest in keeping the status quo; the Crusade for Voters, a group of people who have been working for some 10 years on registration and who are not yet ready for real militant action; the FDP Executive Committee, right now largly women, and with no really vocal leader; and the newly forming Lauderdale Democratic Club, an attempt by 2 or 3 individual Negro businessmen to "work in the Democratic structure that we have in the state"--actually a move to create chaos and disunity among the Negro people of the city, probably suggested to these "Tom" businessmen by the "Good white folks" of this community.

Since the FDP is not really strong here now, the only chance to come out of this election with a Negro city official is to work with one or all of these groups. The problem is that the FDP will have to vack a less militant candidate than it would like, in order to have the support of most of the Negro community. Up until now, the FDP has been seen here as a protest group with little or no actual power. This image was altered somewhat when the depositions for the Congressional Challenge were taken last week in the County Courthouse. People from these other groups saw that the FDP did actually have some pwer in the form of legal backing and good organization and knowledge of exactly how Negro people in the city were being treated in regard to registration.

The FDP will probably do the best fob if it can work with Crusade for Voters. This group, unlike the other three, has no legal backing and yet controls the largest number of Negro voters in the city. If the FDP can show this group that it can provide the necessary legal backing and the power to challenge an election, it may be able to work very closely with the Crusade for Voters. Between now and election time, I would not be surprised to see another Negro political group start up to disunify the Negro community even more. The FDP is trying to get all of the information about election procedures now, but is experiencing much difficulty in getting to talk to the election commissioners of the city. The FDP intends to keep trying and will challenge the election if they can prove they were not allowed to participate in it. Even if the NAACP and the Lauderdale County Democratic Club try to get a candidate in the running through "Uncle Toms" and local lawyers, I suspect that they may be left holding the bag when the deadline for the nominations is here. I don't think the power structure here intends to have a Negro councilman even if he is an "Uncle Tom". The FDP is the only group with real election challenging machinery.

The Congressional Challenge hit its highpoint here in Meridian on Friday, Feb. 5, the day the depositions were taken. There were about 20 friendly witnesses to testify. The circuit judge in this area, Judge Neville, permitted the FDP to use his courtroom. This was a move by the liberal element in Meridian to make the city look good. Most of the testimony concerned the delaying tactics of the registrar of this county. Many people took the registration test, had their names printed in the paper, only to find out when they went down to see if they had passed, that their applications "Couldn't be found". Also many people testified that they had waited many hours on Oct. 29, 1964 to write the application. This type of testimony is not as strong as the actual physical violence that exists in many parts of the state, but these delaying tactics discourage the potential Negro voter just as much as the voilence in other counties does. The people in Meridian were very surprised to see that they were actually able to confront the local lawyers and have good lawyers to support what they said. We must wait patiently now and see what steps the 5 congressmen will take to try to prove that no discrimination exists. It is possible that they will recall all of our witnesses and intimidate them with their past personal records. We expect that the congressmen will also call up some "Toms" to testify that there has been no type of discrimination.

Since our last report we have divided the city into four sections. One local person is responsible for canvassing and organizing each part of town.

The South Side is perhaps the hardest part of the city. The reason ~~kx~~ is that the people there are very poor and very afraid. However, they are quite interested in what COFO is attempting to do. People in this part of town are very interested in how we could help them recieve the proper amount of welfare. Some have recently been cut down and others have never received any aid. Some of the women have shown an interest in starting sewing classes. A meeting is planned in the South Side in the near future to talk about welfare problems and registering to vote. People often express fear of being cut off the welfare rolls if they participate in voting and do not want to come to any meetings at the COFO office for the same reason. Barbara Moss and Sam Brown are currently working the South Side together.

The East End of the city is being worked by Mrs. Agnes Smith, William Knighton, Joe Morse, and Judy Wright. This section of ~~town~~ town has some very poor areas but the people seem interested in seeing COFO and the FDP function in the city. While canvassing, we do not push any particular program but ask what people would like to see us work on. Many people are planning to attend a rally at Tougaloo to set up a Freedom Radio Station on February 14. It looks like a busload will go. There has also been quite a bit of interest shown in ~~xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx~~ the Job Corps film which we have shown in several homes in the East End. This Job Corps is part of President Johnson's Anti-Poverty Bill. Approximately 25 teenagers have filled out and sent in a card asking for information. They have received a letter stating that when the program gets under way, they will be notified and interviewed by some representative of the government. This is all that has come of the film thus far. If there is a film strip projector which is not in use in the CORE Southern Regional Educational office, we could put it to good use. The projector we now have is being rented for ~~xxxx~~ $1.00 per day. We will have to return it this week. We are wondering here how the program will be administered. If it is administered by Southern whites we can expect some discrimination. Let's hope the government has more sense. Greg Naslo has also been using the projector and filmstrip in Clarke County and has indicated that the response to the film has been very promising.

The mid-section of Meridian, called by the citizens "Redline", is headed my Mrs. Crowell and Mrs. Chaney. Most of their work has been registration work--teaching people to fill out the registration form and arranging a time for them to go down to the ~~county~~ Courthouse. They are expoaining to most people the functions of the FDP and how it operates. They seem to be making some good progress.

The West End is being organized by Mrs. Carter with the help of Freddie Watson, Frank Wright, and Myrtle McCarthy. Most of the work in this section of town has been with registration and our welfare program. Quite a few people were interested in working with us to get the welfare department to give them what they should by law receive. Approximately ten people from the West End have gone down to take the registration test in the past two weeks. Many people in this end of twon are willing and have signed the school integration petition. Actually there are very few people in the city who are afraid to sign the petition if it is explained properly. A fair number of parents are signing the petition.

Copy of petition

Rural Lauderdale

Mrs. Chaney, George Smith Jr., Joe Morse, and I are now working in the rural part of Lauderdale. We've set up classes on voter registration, and we've talked to a number of people who seemed very interested in both this and in ~~xxx~~ welfare problems. The objective is to eliminate all fears, and to give the people knowledge of their civil rights...to spark enough fire in them for them to want to work once more for their hard-earned freedom. In the future, we plan to work in Collinsville, Toomsula, Russell, Kewanee, Causeyville, ~~xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx~~all in Lauderdale County, and we hope to include other places.

Mrs. Agnes Smith.

TESTING

We are preparing a suit against all the restaurants in the Meridian city area--trying to show that there is a "pattern of discrimination". We have only found two restaurants right in town which will serve Negroes: The Toddle House and the Chicken Treat.

We had tested all these restaurants once, but many of the people who wrote the affadavits are no longer in Mississippi, (and one batch of affadavits seems to have been lost in the mail on the way to Jackson.) Since those who write the affadavits will have to testify in court, it was necessary to retest about 18 restaurants this past week, using only local people who have no intentions of leaving. Testing was completed today, and as soon as the affadavits are all typed, they will be sent to the Jackson Legal Office, to the Justice Department, and to the Civil Rights Advisory Commission.

Judy Wright.

Financial Report Jan 14-Feb. 9th

Received:

contribution through George Smith.	125.00
donations.	56.47
project budget.	50.00
donation, Gail Falk.	14.84
partial repayal of loan to Chaney family.	5.00
donation, Joe Morse, Frank and Judy Wright.	75.00
donation, Marjorie Henderson.	10.00
loan to Jim Collier repaid	44.89
donation, through Luke Kabat.	10.00
donation, through Mark Levy.	5.00
donation, Mr. Whitfield.	1.00
project budget.	60.00
donation, Joey Gemain.	1.00
	$418.20

Expenditures:

Ellis, reimbursement for travel expense.	7.25
Gunther Frentz, trip to Canton	8.00
phone calls.	.80
loan to Preston Ponder.	15.00
taxi, Gunther Frentz.	.65
food, George Smith.	.75
loan, Sam Brown ,	5.00
stamps.	3.00
mop and floor brush.	9.58
folder for George Smith.	2.25
Preston Ponder	33.60
to Mrs. Heidelberg, Mfr for loan by John Lewis.	5.00
envelopes, and broom for Freedom School.	6.55
postage,	6.50
Miss. Power Company, bill for office and community center.	25.90
Meridian Water & Department.	16.19
loan to Jim Collier (repaid)	44.89
loan to Louise Somlyo.	6.00
parking tickets.	2.00
gas company service.	23.90
postage.	1.00
new locks.	2.45
stamps.	1.50
stamps, pens, other office supplies.	11.30
bank charges (previously not entered in books.	7.39
current bank charge,	1.50
Meridian Star.	.95
to Joe Morse for parking ticket.	1.00

phone service.	.33
postage.	1.00
office supplies...	.40
postage.	1.00
ball point pens.	1.00
Meridian Baptist Seminary Fund, for utilities.	21.00
for testing restaurants.	5.00
	279.63

C

receipts	~~$18.28~~	458.20
expenditures		279.63
		178.57

bank balance 1/14/65		86.29
petty cash 1/14/65		19.70
		$284.56 . . . . . .what present assets should be

O

bank balance ~~2/8/~~ 2/9/65	~~2282~~ 2282	278.71
petty cash		12.85
		$ 291.56,.....what present assets are

P

	$291.56
	-284.56
	$ 7.00 Please don't ask where this came from.....

Y

a national organization with affiliated local groups working

CONGRESS OF RACIAL EQUALITY

CORE

to abolish racial discrimination by direct, nonviolent methods

38 PARK ROW
NEW YORK 38, NEW YORK
COrtlandt 7-6270

James Farmer
national director
Richard Haley
assistant to the director
Carl Rachlin, Esq.
general counsel

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Gordon Carey
program director
James T. McCain
director of organization
Marvin Rich
community relations director

January 12, 1965

Mr. Richard Haley
CORE Southern Regional Office
2209 Dryades Street
New Orleans, Louisiana

Dear Dick:

I've been concerned for some time about the community center program. From the reports we've been getting for Meridian, this center seems to have leveled out at a very low leval of efficiency of service to the community. Others are not really functioning at all. This may be far too harsh a judgment, but it seems the only possible one from the reports we have received. On the other hand, when the Meridian center was run by Mickey and Rita, it functioned very efficiently. This may be because they were trained, as well as enthusiastic and creative. It seems to me that we must provide either training in group work methods for our task force members or we must send creative group workers down, but we cannot allow the buildings to become empty shells.

I've been meeting with some people from the National Association of Social Workers, and we have the germs of some ideas and would like your ideas about this situation. Perhaps we can work them out at the staff meeting in New Orleans.

Cordially,

Marvin Rich, Director
Community Relations

/b

CORE SOUTHERN OFFICE
2209 Dryades Street
New Orleans, Louisiana 70113

January 13, 1965

Meridian COFO
513 25th Avenue
Meridian, Mississippi

Hello Folks,

Reports from the Meridian Office has, on the whole, been frequent, informative an regular. May I point out that the more recent one which speaks of a 1961 station wagon just received, does not carry a date or a name. I am especially interested in the date so that I can see an understandable sequence between reports. Concerning the station wagon would you please indicate the make of car and the serial no of car. Also, please indicate in whose name the bill of sale is written.

You also mentioned in this report that you have four broken typewriters in the office. I would suggest that you place the one which seems to be the best in the local repair shop, and hope for the time when you get the money to get it out. The other three you could bring to the Southern Office when you come down for the conference. I make this suggestion on the assumption that the Southern Office would eventually find money to repair the typewriters, and reassign them to places of greatest need. There is also, of course, the assumption that this will not deprive Meridian of needed equipment.

Take care.

Sincerely,

Richard Haley
CORE Southern Office

RH/vjj

JAN 29 1965

January 27, 1965

Marvin Rich
c/o CORE
38 Park Row
New York, N.Y.

Dear Marvin,

I am writing about a check sent to Sandy Watts within the last two weeks. I never saw it, but some people here said they did, and since we can't find it now, they think it must have been stolen. If there was such a check, this is a good possibility, as there was someone in the office who very likely could have done it.

Could you find out if such a check was sent, and, if so, cancel it.

I thought the New Orleans meeting was good, and am glad more are planned. Enjoyed seeing you and hope it can be repeated.

Regards to everyone, and thanks.

Sincerely,
Judy

485-9286 Res.
Meridian

601

352
9788
354-4474

January 29, 1965

Judy Wright
513 25th Avenue
Meridian, Mississippi

Dear Judy:

As of last pay period all checks for Southern staff are being sent to Richard Haley in New Orleans for distribution. I am therefore, sending your letter to Richard. I can tell you that Sandy's check was sent from this office.

Sincerely yours,

Maxine Skurka
Department of Organization

cc: Richard Haley ✓

Meridian

[1965 Jan?]

MERIDIAN PROJECT

1. Project program includes voter registration (and REregistration, since Meridian has recently changed its precinct distribution and all voters must reregister), Freedom School and Community Center. Also, a "Steering Committee", made up of our most active people, which is in the process of merging with the FDP.

   The Steering Committee plans projects such as requesting the removal of the "white" and "colored" signs from plumbing fixtures in the County Courthouse, the distribution of welfare goods, testing the Civil Rights Bill, collecting money for a permanent bail fund, establishing a PTA for the one Negro school that doesn't have one, setting up a conference with laundromat owners to get them to desegregate all at once...etc. There has been talk of beginning a maid's union, and we also hope to start a newspaper.

2. EQUIPMENT

   make ser. no. etc.

   One 1961 station wagon, in good condition. This car is a donation from a group in Pittsburgh and only arrived a week ago. It left immediately for Washington, so we hope it will be in good shape when it gets back. Another station wagon is promised from Boston, but hasn't arrived yet.

   We have no community cars at our disposal, although one community car took a group to Washington. No trucks at all.

   We rent two places: 5 rooms at 2505½ 5th Street - Community Center $40/mo.
   2 large rooms at 513 25th Avenue - office and Freedom House $50/mo. in this building, we also have limited access to the very large room upstairs, although we pay no rent for it. We use this room for welfare clothes.

   Three male workers live in the Freedom House; the rest live with members of the community. TheFreedom house has its toilet in a shed attached to the back of the building (perfectly adequate), but no hot water or bathing facilities. Baths are available in the community, however. Average monthly expense per person is about $20/mo.

   We have a mimeo machine which works well, one really functional typewriter and about four broken typewriters.
   We are completely out of mimeo paper and are using letterhead stationary from an aluminum company in Pittsburgh. One stapler; stamps we buy out of project money as needed; file folders, paper clips are in good supply. We use about 8 reams of mimeo paper a month.
   We buy supplies out of project money and whatever contributions drift in from the North.
   We could use a push broom and two more mops and lots more energy.
   We have one file cabinet, plenty of maps etc. and would like a desk with drawers, but are doing OK without it.

   Our Freedom School uses the top floor of the local Baptist Seminary and needs at least one large blackboard.
   We are up to our ears in books of all descriptions. Reference included.
   We are very short of phamphlets, posters and leaflets. The few we have were supplied by the Jackson office.

   We have lots of canned beans, saurkraut and peas.

Our welfare program is handled through the steering committee, which makes some effort to investigate need and has begun insisting that welfare recipients make an attempt to register to vote.

The program is sporadic...goes into action only when clothes arrive, usually from New York, New Jersey, and one from Dayton, Ohio. Storage already described.

The Community Center has a couple of sewing machines in dubious working order and recently acquired leather working equipment, which we are told can be repaired.

4. NEEDS
mimeo paper, ball-point pens, CHAIRS (preferably folding), another bed, desk with drawers, a hot water heater (we may have one lined up locally), and permission to keep the car coming from Boston. Also, typewriter ribbons and "magic markers" in colors, and some large paper for posters.

5. PHONES
We now have one phone (485-9286). It is a pay phone and the rate is a guarantee to the phone company that the machine will receive 39¢ a day. If it doesn't, we have to pay the difference, but it almost always does. We get occasional refunds, suggesting that the phone company refunds anything in excess of the 39¢ a day, but this is difficult to believe. We hope to get a regular phone with a "secret" number so that local calls won't cost us so much; secret, so that no long-distance calls can be accepted or made.

MERIDIAN COMMUNITY CENTER
Weekly Report Week of March 25, 1964 Rita Schwerner

In the sewing classes, which began about ten days ago, I believe that we have found one of the programs which we were searching for - an entrance into the Negro community. This program is one which appeals not to the middle class Negro, whom we already have contact with, but to the poor person who can't afford to buy either ready-made clothing or material. We have had about forty women, of all ages, come up and begin work on garments, in the few days since the program began. Many of these people had never been up before, and we are now able to orient them as to our other programs. I see the sewing classes as serving two specific purposes. The first is to provide new clothing for people who need it, and this the program is doing! Material is free, and those women who already know how to sew may take what they need and sew at home. Those people who are beginners select their material and receive instructions here. The group is so far about half and half. The second function os the pregra is to provide access for us into the community. We take the name and address of each person who comes for material, and inquire of adults as to whether they are registered voters. We explain our program and ask for their support. Many of these people have already started to use our other facilities, and have brought their friends up to see us. We have received invitations to visit people's homes.

Because the program is expanding far faster than I dreamed it would, we are faced with the problem of needing more material in a hurry. I have written to Elisabeth McFadden and to a personal friend, who both secured our first shipment of goods, explained the situation to them, and requested further shipments. They will not be able to supply us indefinitely, and I will need contacts to secure more material. The other problem resulting from the speed with which the sewing classes caught on has had a good result. I was not able to handle all the people who came up for instruction by myself, and was forced to search for help. Two of the local girls, who have been previously active, offered to help to teach sewing, and as a result are now far more involved with our program than ever before.

Other classes are also picking up. About four children come daily after school for reading help; the children's story hour is running smoothly and singing is done more than story telling. (I am saving scraps of material and we plan to teach the children how to make puppets.) Two nights a week there are classes for people interested in clerk and Civil Service positions. We so dimple math and will in the future have workshops preparing people for the reactions they will receive as first Negro clerks, etc. in the large downtown stores.

Teenagers are beginning to show some interest in canvassing and they use the library and teen room constantly.
WE DO NEED MORE STAFF.

Ans.

File: Meridian

513 25th Avenue
Meridian, Miss.
Feb. 4, 1965

Dear Richard,

Jackson has said that they would like us to send all the gas receipts to them. As far as I know, they have ~~already~~ always been sent to the New Orleans office. Where do you want them sent from now on? Perhaps I could send the receipts to one place, and a list of them to the other.

Sorry to bother you on this.....thanks

Sincerely,

Judy Wright

CORE SOUTHERN OFFICE
2209 Dryades Street
New Orleans, Louisiana 70113

February 15, 1965

Meridian COFO
George Smith, Jr.
513 25th Avenue
Meridian, Mississippi

Dear George,

I had a chance to read through the January Meridian report. It is certainly informative. It's encouraging, too; I know of the long struggle you've had with "status quo" Negroes in Meridian, and feel encouraged that you're still working to draw in more people to the militant side. The report raised several questions and comments which are notated below.

You mention there is a great deal of unused equipment; would you be willing to transfer some low priority items to some other project? Spiver Gordon in Florida has spoken of a need for sewing machines, for instance. You also wrote of shirt factories in Decatur. If we have their names and addresses perhaps some pressure can be generated to get the northern owners interested in hiring Negroes at upgraded levels.

In the political report there is an item on "canvassing the city to interest people in federal programs." What programs? The petition you mention---is this a petition from parents for their children to be entered in desegregated schools? Would you send a copy of the petition to the office here? It might serve several useful purposes---publicity, adaptation to other communities, etc. The Crusade for Voters certainly sounds interesting; I hope you're able to form a real working alliance with them.

I'm just as interested in how the seven-dollar excess occurred in your accounts as if it were a deficit. Please recheck; it may not be even there. By the way, national office bookkeeping department has been very upset about a bank account in Meridian for which there is insufficient information, or something like that. If you can give them any help, please clear up the matter as soon as possible.

There is a gargantuan effort underway in antional office to do two things: (1) to arrive at a realistic figure for project budget; (2) arrange to transmit that amount regularly. But we must pay our pound of flesh in return. Mileage reports each week, biweekly project reports, personnel records on each worker---likely there'll be others, too. Dick Jewett will discuss this with you in more detail when he returns. He will also talk to you about the procedure for your proposed self-reduction in pay.

One more thing; can you conveniently arrange for a copy of this rereport to go to Jim McCain in New York? This is enough for one letter, I think.

Take care,

Richard Haley
CORE Southern Director

RH/vvj

Meridian

Feb. 18, 1965

Dear Richard,

Have mulled over the books again after reading your last letter—and succeeded in finding the ~~X~~x seven dollars.

~~I~~ $3;50 must be added to "Received". Also, the $12.85 petty cash total of 2/9/65 should be changed to $9.35.

This results in:

receipts	461.70	
expenditures	279;83	
	182.07	
bank balance 1/14/65	86.29	
petty cash 1/14/65	19.70	
	288.06	what present assets should be
bank balance 2/9/65	278.71	
petty cash 2/9/65	9.35	
	288.06	what present assets are.

whew

Am sending the information on the school desegregation petition we are getting signed. I think the NAACP originated this. It has been used successfully in several places in Miss., such as in Leake County. It's only preliminary to a suit.

We have lots of broken equipment, but Eric Weinberger knows most about it. I confess I lost your last letter, and am only answering the parts I can remember. Eric says he will send you anything we can spare...can you send him a list of the kinds of things you want. We have typewriters, phonographs, a seriously smashed up mimeograph , and a ditto machine in the same condition. Do you want all of this....please let Eric know.

Freedom,

Judy Wright

file Write Dick about this.

CORE SOUTHERN OFFICE
2209 Dryades Street
New Orleans, Louisiana 70113

February 23, 1965

file Meridian

Miss Judy Wright
513 25th Avenue
Meridain, Mississippi

Dear Judy,

Concerning loss

Many weeks ago you wrote considering the apparent ~~lost~~ of a subsistence check for Sandy Watts. Not having heard of this since that time, I have assumed that the check was found. If such is not the case would you please let me know at once.

Sincerely,

Richard

Richard Haley
CORE Southern Director

RH/vjj

Dear Richard -

The check was not found. I would have written if it were. Sorry it wasn't clear.

Sincerely,

Judy.

CORE SOUTHERN OFFICE
2209 Dryades Street
New Orleans, Louisiana 70113

February 23, 1965

Miss Judy Wright
513 25th Avenue
Meridain, Mississippi

Dear Judy,

Many weeks ago you wrote considering the apparent lost of a subsistence check for Sandy Watts. Not having heard of this since that time, I have assumed that the check was found. If such is not the case would you please let me know at once.

Sincerely,

Richard Haley
CORE Southern Director

RH/vjj

file
~~Write Geo.~~
~~Smith to c of~~
letter to Day

file
Meridian

24 February, 1965

Mr. George Smith
513 25th Avenue
Meridian, Mississippi

Dear Mr. Smith:

Enclosed is a 1965 Phillips Petroleum Company Card in exchange for your present card which has expired or is about to expire. Please return to me your present card.

I am enclosing only one card on the basis of my understanding that this card is placed in a particular service station in your area for use by your staff, as opposed to traveling with your staff members or your car (s). I would appreciate by returned mail a list of all persons under your jurisdiction who are authorized to use this card. We will hold your office responsible for any sales made under the signature of persons not so designated in your letter. If changes in your personnel necessitate changes in those authorized to use this card, please notify me at once by mail.

As this card is the only one issued under the Number 665-301-924-7, we shall record all charges to this card as having been incurred by your project. Should this card be used for any other purposes, please notify me on such use.

Should you need additional cards please notify me and I shall attempt to accommodate your request.

Yours in the struggle,

Edwin A. Day
Business Manager

ED/mt
Enc.
DC: George Wiley
Dick Jewett
Richard Haley ✓
Clora Coleman

Meridian

Meridian Community Center
513 25th Ave.
Meridian, Mississippi
March 18, 1965

Mr. James Farmer
National Director
Congress of Racial Equality
38 Park Row
New York 38, N.Y.

Dear Mr. Farmer;

This letter is to request your aid and the aid of the Congress of Racial Equality in preventing the unjust exclusion of a major part of the Negro community in Meridian from participation in planning the use of federal funds that will be coming into Meridian under Title II of the 1964 Economic Opportunities Act.

As provided in the bill, a local committee has been set up to seek the funds. This committee is chaired by Judge Maniesse and co-chaired by Mr. Charles Young. Mr. Young is a Negro business man, introduced at a recent meeting as "our local tycoon." We do not believe that his interests coincide with those of the great majority of Meridian Negroes.

Our complaint is that none of the organizations that actually speak for the oppressed Negroes of Meridian were even invited to, or notified of the existence of, a recent meeting at which the local committee was formed. These organizations include: The Meridian Community Center, the Meridian Steering Committee of the Council of Federated Organizations and the Lauderdale County Executive Committee of the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party. I want it to be clear that no representation is being sought by us for staff employees of these groups but only for local people who serve on the committees that determine the policies and actions of the groups. For example the Community Center would probably be represented by Mrs. Fannie Lee Chaney, whose son, James Chaney, was active in the organization of the center until his death this summer.

Because these groups were not present at the meeting at which the local committee to seek funds was formed, the information that follows may not be as accurate as we would wish. I received this information at second hand from one of those present at the meeting. The person who gave me the information has asked that neither her name nor that of the man present at the meeting be disclosed. The information is, however, confirmed by the general belief of the community.

Mr. Young was, at first, to be the only Negro on the committee. However, at the insistence of the white members of the committee, three additional members of the Negro race were asked to join. These include some of the following; Mrs. Whitlock, owner of a florist shop and beauty parlor; Reverend R. S. Porter, a leading Negro Minister; Mr. Albert Jones, a restauranteur; and Reverend Barbour, vice president of the Meridian Branch of the NAACP. These people ably represent the Negro business and professional groups in this city. We do not believe that they represent the great number

of Negro workmen and unemployed.

A group called the Lauderdale County Democratic Club (not the regular white Democratic organization) which is generally known as Mr. Young's organization, and in which Reverend Porter is also active, has been conducting a membership drive based on the alleged fact that many of the anti-poverty benefits whould be funneled through that group to its members.

Therefore, Mr. Farmer, we ask your aid in informing Washington that the committee has been so set up as to give the appearance of remarkable inter-racial harmony for this state; but that in fact these who represent the Negro community at large, rather than its more affluent members, have been excluded. We ask that the committee, as now consituted, not be granted recognition by the Office of Economic Opportunity.

Sincerely,

Eric Weinberger
Director, Meridian Community Center

cc: Marvin Rich
Richard Haley
Richard Jewett

master

Ans
f/c Meridian

CORE SOUTHERN OFFICE
2209 Dryades Street
New Orleans, Louisiana 70113

April 5, 1965

Mr. Eric Weinberger
513 25th Avenue
Meridian, Mississippi

Dear Eric,

I assume by this time long since you have written a complaint to the office of Economic Opportunity, protesting the imbalance in the presently constituted local committee to administer Title II. OEO has given evidence several times in the past that it is quite sensitive to such complaints, even though they come from "Just Folks" in the community rather than from some important figure.

Even so, I will speak of the matter again to Farmer this weekend during NAC Meeting. I'll make a note now so I won't forget it.

Sincerely,
Richard

Richard Haley
CORE Southern Director

RH/vjj

Dear Richard Haley,

We have not written to the OEO directly because Marv Rich suggested that we write to him when I told him what was going on. The letter you got was a copy of our reply to his request that we spell out the facts. However, because we can not document the exclusion of poor whites from the group it seems that the CORE national office will be unable to file a complaint with the OEO.

I have very little hope for any complaint that we might file directly from here. A previous letter to the Job Corps (about the fact that differant treatment was being given applications sent from the COFO office and those sent from the high school) received no reply whatsoever from Washington, not even the minimal politness of saying that they had received the letter.

Sincerely,
Eric

Eric Weinberger

CORE Southern Regional Office
2209 Dryades Street
New Orleans, Louisiana

April 27, 1965

Mr. Eric Weinberger
513 25th Avenue
Meridian, Mississippi

Dear Eric:

Please bring me up to date on the present status of the anti-poverty operation that is going on in Meridian. I believe I can cut through to someone in OEO who has a little weight to throw around. Concerning the long silence from this office in regard to Meridian, please see my letter to Greg Kaslo.

Haven't seen you for a long time; hope things are going well. If not, tell me in detail. I am a great sympathizer.

Sincerely,

Richard Haley
CORE Southern Director

RH/gjm

CORE Southern Regional Office
2209 Dryades Street
New Orleans, Louisiana

April 27, 1965

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Sincerely,

Richard Haley
CORE Southern Director

RH/gjm

CORE Southern Regional Office
2209 Dryades Street
New Orleans, Louisiana
April 26, 1965

Mr. Greg Kaslo
Clarke County COFO
513 25th Avenue
Meridian, Mississippi

Dear Greg:

I don't know what disposition has been made of your problem concerning the ectoplasmic $150.00. Of this much I am reasonably certain: you will never see it. I assume you decided some time ago to operate as if there never had been such; the decision was eminently correct.

I have a sneaking suspicion that people in Mississippi may feel they see little of me because I am more concerned with Louisiana. The truth is, I am simply nailed down to this desk, and Louisiana doesn't see more of me than Mississippi. I have completely run out of my supply of vague inferences of impending visits in the near future; truthfully, I don't know when I'll be going anyplace.

Speaking of desks, I have a deep inner urge to learn more about the ongoing progress of Mississippi projects. You can fill this need by reports on the 10th and 25th. In return, I hope to be able to furnish--if needed--spanking, brand new gasoline credit cards and an extensive list of instructions appertaining to the use thereof.

Underneath the light persiflage above there is the frustrated feeling of having given Mississippi far too little in money, man power, or constructive criticism from the Southern Office. Let's hope a new day is dawning.

Sincerely,

Richard Haley
CORE Southern Director

Master

CORE SOUTHERN OFFICE
2209 Dryades Street
New Orleans, Louisiana 70113

April 5, 1965

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513 25th Avenue
Meridian, Mississippi

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Sincerely,

Richard Haley
CORE Southern Director

RH/vjj

[1965, April]

4/65

CORE Southern Regional Office/2209 Dryades Street/New Orleans, La. 70113

PARTIAL LIST OF RACIAL MURDERS IN THE SOUTH IN THE LAST 2 YEARS----

April, 1963 - William Moore, White, 30's
Gadston, Alabama
CORE worker, shot to death on Freedom Walk
Assailant arrested, NO CONVICTION

June, 1963 - Medgar Evers, Negro, 30's
Jackson, Mississippi
NAACP Field Secretary, shot to death at his home for civil rights activities
Assailant, Byron De La Beckwith, member of White Citizens Council, arrested, 2 trials, hung juries, NO CONVICTION

September, 1963 - Carol Robertson, Negro, 14
Cynthia Wesley, Negro, 14
Addie Mae Collins, Negro, 14
Denise McNail, Negro, 11
Killed in church bombing
NO arrests, NO CONVICTION

September, 1963 - Virgil Ware, Negro, 13
Birmingham, Alabama
Shot to death by two teenage boys, white, while riding his bicycle
Assailants arrested, Suspended sentence

September, 1963 - James Robinson, Negro, 16
Birmingham, Alabama
Shot to death in the back by police officer in "self-defense"
No arrest, NO CONVICTION

September, 1963 - John Coley, Negro, 20
Birmingham, Alabama
War veteran, shot to death by police
No arrest, NO CONVICTION

September, 1963 - young man, Negro
New Orleans, Louisiana
Shot to death by police officer
No arrest, NO CONVICTION

January, 1964 - Lewis Allen, Negro, 40's
Liberty, ~~Missouri~~ Mississippi
Shot to death at his home; had witnessed a white state representative kill a Negro in 1961; murder followed 2 years of constant harrassment; victim had asked for federal protection, but was refused.
No arrests, NO CONVICTIONS

February, 1964 - 1 woman, 2 men, Negro
20's or 30's
Woodville, Mississippi
Shot to death in parked car
No arrest, NO CONVICTION

March, 1964 - Man, Negro, 40's
Natchez, Mississippi
Shot to death at night in car
No arrest, NO CONVICTION

June, 1964 - Michael Schwerner, white, 24
James Chaney, Negro, 21
Andrew Goodman, white, 20
Philadelphia, Mississippi
Beaten and shot to death for civil rights activities;
Several arrests, including law-enforcement officials; NO CONVICTIONS

July, 1964 - 2 men, Negroes, 19, 20
Southwest Mississippi
Half-bodies found in river during search for missing three (above)
Arrests, NO CONVICTIONS

July, 1964 - Lemuel Penn, Negro, 33
Athens, Georgia
Official in school system of Washington, D.C. Shot to death in his car from passing car when returning to Washington from training for army reserve in Georgia.

Klansmen arrested, NO CONVICTIONS

Summer, 1964 - man, Negro
New Orleans, Louisiana
Shot to death at bus stop from passing car
No arrest, NO CONVICTION

September, 1964 - Herbert Orsby, Negro, 14
Canton, Mississippi
Found drowned wearing CORE tee-shirt; last seen in pick-up truck with white men.
No arrest, NO CONVICTION

December, 1964 - Frank Morris, Negro, 52
Ferriday, Louisiana
Burned to death in his shop--covered with gasoline by white men, set afire, and forced to remain inside.
No arrest, NO CONVICTIONS

December, 1964 - Man and woman, Negro
New Orleans, Louisiana
Shot to death in motel
No arrest, NO CONVICTION

January, 1965 - Ollie B. Shelby, Negro, 18
Jackson, Mississippi
Badly beaten and shot to death by police officers in Hinds County Jail.
No arrests, NO CONVICTION

January, 1965 - Marshall Scott, Jr., Negro, 43
New Orleans, Louisiana
Put into solitary confinement in New Orleans jail with pneumonia; died without medical attention.
No arrests, NO CONVICTIONS

February, 1965 - Jimmy Lee Jackson, Negro
Marion, Alabama
Shot to death by state troopers during demonstration for voting rights.
No arrests, NO CONVICTIONS

February, 1965 - John Lee, Negro, 31
Goshen Springs, Mississippi
Found dead on country road with signs of beating--had attended civil rights meetings
NO arrests, NO CONVICTIONS

February, 1965 - Donald Rasberry, Negro, 19
Okolona, Mississippi
Shot to death by his plantation boss.
NO CONVICTION

March, 1965 - Rev. James.Reeb, white, 37
Selma, Alabama
Beaten to death after participating in in March for voting rights
Four arrests, PENDING

March, 1965 - Viola Gregg Liuzzo, white, 38
Lowndesboro, Alabama
Shot to death from passing car while transporting demonstrators from march for voting rights.
Four whites arrested, PENDING

May, 1965 - O'Neil Moore, Negro
Bogalusa, Louisiana
Shot to death from passing car. First Negro detective in Bogalusa.
Arrests, PENDING

July, 1965 - Willie Brewster, Negro, 38
Annaston, Alabama
Shot to death from passing car.
No Arrest

July, 1965 - Clifford Charles, Jr., Negro, 24
Franklin, Louisiana
Shot to death in his yard by police officer for traffic violation.
No arrest.

Meridian

513 25th. Avenue
May 15, 1965

Dear Sir,

I am sorry to have been reminded to send in our project report, due to the fact that our staff seemed to have lost interest in working or writing out reports. We had to depend on our local people who were not so experienced in such matters.

Most of our paid staff has left. Judy Wright left April 24. Frank right and Eric Weinberger left May 11. We only have two paid staff workers, Joe Morse and George Smith Jr.

The Southern climate was no good for Judy's asthama and Eric Weinberger felt he was no contributing anything to the community.

I can assure you of a report twice a month hereafter.

Our staff consists now of five local citizens and Joe Morse.

Yours for Freedom,

Mrs. Catherine Crowell

CC/sw

cc: Dick Jewett
Richard Haley
Marvin Rich
Jesse Morris

MERIDIAN PROJECT REPORT - May 15 - June 15

This report will consist of the following parts:

1. Project Director's Report
2. Assistant Project Director's Report
3. Report on Rural Lauderdale
4. Freedom School
5. Steering Committee Report
6. Welfare Committee Report
7. Community Center
8. Financial Report
9. Personnel Report
10. Newton County Report
11. Desegregation Suit Report

Personnel Report

At the follwoing time there are five full time workers in the Meridian Project.
Mrs. Catherine Crowell - Project Director - no subsistance
Mrs. Agnas Smith - Community Center - no subsistance
Mrs. Dora Carter - Welfare - no subsistance
George Smith Jr. - Assistant Project Director - CORE check
Joe Morse - Political Programs - CORE check

We are also planning to have other local people come into the project to work full time since what we are working for is the full participation of local people in the full time management of the Meridian Project.

Project Director's Report

Dick Jewett met with the staff of the Meridian COFO the later part of March. George Smith, our Project Director discussed with Dick and the staff about me, Mrs. Cathe ine Crowell, becoming Project Director. All agreed that I would be Project Director for a month that is, acting Director. After the month was over I was to be full director and also bookeeper all of which Dick Jewett agreed and promised to put me on pay role but I have not received a check as of yet. Therefore our staff consists of two paid workers and four volunteers. George felt that he could accomplish more by going into the field to work as much work was needed to be done in the counties that hadn't been worked. Judy Wright and Frank Wright were also staff members but couldn't seem to get used to the Southern climate and therefore went home. We spent some time in testing and received good results from it by getting the U.S. Justice Department to file suit aginst 16 eating establishments. To date, 14 have complied and two will have to go to court. We also were able to file four additional suits against eating places in the interest of Mrs. Fannie Chaney and nineteen other citizens.

We are also instrumental in getting a integration school suit filed in the interest of 21 parents of Meridian and our plans will be to try to integrate these schools next year. Our plans for the summer will be to teach Voter Registration classes and take

at least fifty people down to the Court House to register for the three summer months the students are here. We will teach classes on citizenship, reading and writing. Joe Morse and George Smith will be working rural Lauderdale County and Newton County. Eric Weinberger didn't think he was contributing anything to the community therefore he left and is in New York. Mrs. Agnas Smith will be in charge of the community center, along with Mrs. Fannie Chaney until she goes to New York. All /r/e/ in all, we are going to have a big summer.

Mrs. Catherine Crowell
Project Director

Assistant Project Director's Report

Since the January report, I am no longer Project Director. The reason for my doing so is because the workers that we had in the field was not making much progress. They was easily discouraged also it seemed as if they were losing interest in their work. We had three workers in the field at that time and I was only able to work in my spare time which was very limited. It came to my attention that the staff on payroll were getting little or no work done at all. They sat in the Meridian Office all the time and drank coffee and read magazines and smoked all day. No matter how much I talked and discussed their importance of working it didn't last over two days or less before they were back to their old routine. It also came to the local people attention that they would go and work in the field all day, while the staff on payroll which was all white would do nothing but sit down. One of the local ladies indicated that things like this had been going on all the time in the South and she said that she had been working and cleaning all her life hebind white folds and that day is over now. The lady whom I am speaking of is Mrs. Catherine Crowell who is now working full time with the Movement. She is very didicated to the Movement. This matter of changing director was discussed with Dick Jewett and the Meridian Staff. It was agreed upon by the staff and also Dick Jewett that Mrs. Crowell be Project Director and I would be Assistant Project Director. Joe Morse and I are now working Rural Lauderdale and opening up Newton County. We work Rural Lauderdale on Monday, Wednesday and Friday. We work Newton County on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday. Mrs. Crowell is doing a good job as Project Director and we are getting twice as much work done.

George Smith Jr.
Assistant Project Director

Report On Rural Lauderdale

At the present time, Joe Morse and I are now working Rural Lauderdale. It is composed of about six or seven small towns. At the present time we are working two samll towns which are Kewanee and Toomsuba which are about four miles apart. We are going around from house to house telling people about the Movement and we also have discussions on things that they would like to see changed in their community. The people in the two areas that we

are now working in seem to be very interested in registering to vote and the F.D.P. We are also in the process of setting up workshops and voter registration classes for those people who are in those two areas. Our plans are working ev ry little town in Rural Lauderdale, and we hope to get alot accomplished.

George Smith Jr.

Freedom School

We are hoping to open our Freedom School in the Baptist Seminary Building on the third floor at 31st. Ave. and 16th. Street. Our Freedom School will consist of ten teachers, teaching adults as well as children. We plan to give brush up courses in typing and shorthand as many adults have expressed a desire to want to refresh or take up typing. Negro History will be a special subject taught as well as English. We plan to use many of our local students in assisting in teaching along with the summer volunteers. We will have Miss Gail Falk back with us this summer. Miss Falk is a wonderful person as well as a hard worker.

Mrs. Crowell

Steering Committee Report of F.D.P.

This committee meets every Tuesday night at 7:30. It is composed of local people who come and discuss what we have done, and plans for future activities. Voter registration has top priority over other plans. Occasionally F.D.P. Members ~~other~~ from other projects, Clarke and Neshoba counties come in with us. At present we are planning our Summer Project: citizenship, with adult education, sewing, reading classes and studies in race relations. In a few days, we plan to have a program with as many local citizens as will come in.

Mrs. Dora Carter

Welfare Committee Report

This department is usually open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Saturday from 10 a.m. to 12 noon. As people come in for clothing and shoes we ask them to go down to the Court House to try to get registered to vote. In some instances we help them understand parts of the constitution which they may be required to answer. Any members of staff will accompany one who may not care to go alone.

Mrs. Dora Carter

Community Center

We were sorry to see Eric leave as we all likes him. I hope I can do a good job of managing the center as he did. We have given the center a spring cleaning and have arranged things

to fit in the small space we have. I must say more and more children and adults are taking a keen interest in the center. Also the library the summer plans for the center will consist of sewing classes Monday-Wednesday and Friday by Mrs. Chaney and Mrs. Rosie L. Leflore, handicraft, story hour and Dramatics for children by Mrs. Smith and others. The community is now located at 513 25th. Ave.

Mrs. Agnas Smith

Newton County Report

Since February, the work in Newton County has been rather eratic. Frank Wright, Mrs. Crowell and George Smith found that the NAACP chapter in the county began telling people to have nothing to do with COFO soon after we began working there. At this point it seems that since the NAACP had never done anything, now none will listen to what they have to say; particularly when COFO comes in and begins to do things.

The church services to which we went in several Newton County towns were well attended. The people all seemed to be very enthusiastic and wanted to know more about voting and registration. While moving around the county from church to church, it became evident that the only town in Newton County which had many Negro people living in it was Newton. Thus our activity for the past month has been confined mostly to Newton. If any headquarters is set up in that county it will be in Newton where a lage proportion of the counties Negroes live.

An opportunity for some action presented itself in Newton the first part of March. A young Negro woman 18 years old, was raped by a married white man of about 30 years old. As one could imagine, the Negro community was very upset. About 5 people went to talk to the Sheriff who had the man arrested after a statement was made. Between then and now nothing has been done to the man and he is free. Tomorrow,morning, anoher committee of 6 people including a minister intend to demand some action by the Sheriff.

This indident has unified the Negro comminity of this samll town to action. This could become very emotional and violent, however, the tempers have cooled some in the weeks lapse and the issue is now is not so much that one incident, but standing up and demanding equal justice. This seems to be good.

Since Frank Wright left this project, George Smith and myself, Joe Morse, have been working Newton County. Two nights ago at a party we interested the high school students in testing and in Freedom Schools. In fact, we may begin testing program in Newton this coming week with the H.S. Students. They are quite "up" on the movement in Mississippi.

Joe Morse

Desegregation Suit Report

There are 24 restaurants in Meridian which were tested to

determine if they were complying with the Civil Rights Act. They were tested between November 1964 and February 1965 by local people of Meridian, both High School students and adults. Copies of the affidavits from the testing were sent both to the Justice Department and our Jackson legal office. It became evident in March that the Justice Department was going to take some action on the tests, for the FBI called in all the people who had tested and took statements from them. Some of the restaurants had to be retested.

About May, the Justice Department filed suit against 16 restaurants in the name of about 20 local people in Meridian. All but 2 of these 16 restaurants desegrated within 2 days. On May 12th., the NAACP legal degense fund filed suit in the name of the same local people on the remaining 8 restaurants. We don't know if these 8 will come around yet or not. This well be our work for the next few days, We have not decided on the action against the 2 who refused to desegregate.

For the past 4 weeks, the local people of Meridian have been getting a petition signed to present the school board requesting desegregation of all the schools. It was presented to the School board during the last week of April. Since then, the NAACP legal defense fund has filed a suit in the name of about 21 parents against the Meridian School Board demanding the desegregation of all the elementary and secondary schools in Meridian.

Both Harris Junior College and Meridian Jr. College are to be integrated starting this summer. The school board decided to sign the Federal Government compliance pledge on April 5th. for these two Jr. Colleges. The School Board did not sign the pledge for the elementary and secondary schools.

This desegregation activity has given some stature to COFO in the eyes of the Negro community in the past month. People are beginning to consider COFO a power to be reckoned with rather than a poorly organized and helpless group of wayward individuals.

Joe Morse

Financial Report

This financial report will not be of the complete nature that it should be. The books have been pretty much in a mess and it is going to take a conserted effort to get them in order and right now I don't have the time since I do not work on this project but am merely helping with the books. I will try at the end of this month and by the next report to get you a full itemized report on the financial status of this project. Right now I am giving you the total expenditures and the total receipts for the months from January 1965 up until May 15, 1965. There are many outstanding checks that haven't been cleared as of yet and that is why the bank balance we have right now will not balance out with the total figures. Also much of the money that is received is not put into the checking account but is saved out for cash on hand. This is one more reason why the figures will not balance out.

Total receipts for January 1965 -	$ 819.45	
Total expenditures for January 1965 -	594.55	
Total Receipts for Feb., 1965 -	$ 336.00	
Total expenditures for Feb. 1965 -	267.04	
Total Receipts for March 1965 -	$ 212.77	
Total expenditures for March 1965 -	216.11	
Total receipts for April 1965 -	$ 368.40	
Total expenditures for April 1965 -	281.25	
Receipts up to May 15th., 1965	$ 163.30	
Expenditures up to May 15th., 1965 -	296.09	
The total Receipts from Jan. to May 15th. 1965 -		$1,899.92
The total expenditures from Jan. to May 15 1965 -		1,655.04

At the present time we have $160.65 bank balance and $6.45 balance of petty cash.

As I have said before I will include an itemized statement in the next report.

Submitted by

Sandra Watts

Council Of Federated Organizations

Meridian

[1965, May]

1017 Lynch Street

(601) 352-9605

Jackson, Mississippi 39203

Meridian Project

Aaron Henry
President

Robert Moses
Program Director

David Dennis
Assistant Program Director

Congressional District Coordinators

Frank Smith, 1st
Columbus

James Jones, 2nd
Greenwood

Jesse Harris, 3rd
Vicksburg

Matteo Suarez 4th
Meridian

Lawrence Guyot, 5th
Hattiesburg

State Office Coordinator
Charles Cobb, Jackson

Welfare and Relief Committee
Vera Pigee, Clarkdale
Annelle Ponder, Greenwood

Political Program Committee
Lawrence G Guyot, Hattiesburg

Finance Committee
Rev. R. L. T. Smith, Jackson

Federal Programs Committee
Jesse Morris, Jackson

Mr. Haley,

Enclosed are the gas receipts for the Meridian Neshoba and Clarke Projects. They are for the month of October (just a few) and November. Jim Collier has an Esso credit card which he has used for Clarke County. The Phillips card has been used by Meridian, Neshoba and Clarke. I have not added up these receipts since most of them are complete except for a few which may be missing.

In case you have a question as to the printing on some of the tickets instead of the credit card printing let me explain. We have made an arrangement with the man who runs the Phillips station to give gas to people who have a note from the Project Director in the event that the credit card is out or unobtainable.

For Freedom,

Sandra Watts
Meridian Project

P.S. Our mailing address has been changed to 513 25th. Avenue, Meridian, Mississippi for the political office and 2505½ 5th. Street for the community center.

Newton County Miss.

Meridian COFO

Newton County Report for June,1965

Newton County is a rural county directly west of Lauderdale County. The total population of the county as of the 1960 census was 18,800. Of this 12,900 were white and 5,500 were Negro and 400 were others. This information was obtained from the CORE Southern office research bureau. Decatur is the County seat but very few egroes live in the town. The majority of Negroes live in the southern half of the county and in particular in the town of Newton which is the largest town in the county. The city of Newton has 1,985 whites and 1,180 Negroes as of the same 1960 census. This same census gives the percentage of nonwhites in the county as 33.6%.

The combined staffs of Clarke, Neshoba, and Lauderdale counties held a winter staff meeting with Dick Jewett concerning the possibilities of opening up surrounding counties which had previously been untouched. Since Newton county was the nearest unworked county from Lauderdale it was decided to send local Lauderdale people and one staff member to work the county. George Smith Jr. and two others began working the county in Feburary, 1965. Work was begun in Decatur which is the county seat but which has very few Negroes. It was decided, however, that since there were few Negroes in Decatur that work would be done in the area of Newton which is a larger town south of Decatur and has a much larger Negro population. When work was first started in the town of Newton there arose alot of trouble with the local NAACP which began telling the Negroes that they should not get involved with COFO since the NAACP said that it could do more for them. In reality the local NAACP was not doing anything for the local people and the people were not very enthusiastic about it.

Work was begun by canvessing the neighborhoods talking to the people in general about the problems in Newton and how things could be improved. The major problem seems to be the three garmet factories which took Negro applications but nothing resulted from this in the way of jobs for Negroes except in rare instances. The big desire by Newton Negroes concerns obtaining good jobs.

There seems to be a growing interest in COFO and its activities since the NAACP has done nothing for them and the become acquainted with COFO's work. From this growing desire to work with COFO result a desire by some Newton citizens to have a Freedom Rally. Mr. Knox Curry has proved extremely helpful along with Miss Luella Robinson and several other local people. We began talking to the Ministers about using their churches for the rally and even though a few of them had seemed sympathetic at first when word got around that civil rights workers were in the area the whites began putting pressure on the influential Negroes and the ministers began backing down.

Mr. Curry, along with other citizens said that he was not going to let anyone turn him around and insisted that the rally be held anyway.

Mr. Curyy and George Smith and some of the local citizens got together and discussed the possiblity of holding an outside rally. Miss Luella Robinson, who owns a great deal of land in Newton, said that she would be more than happy to let us use her land to hold the rally.

The rally was held on June 27th on Miss Robinson's field. We estimate that the crowd which gathered was between 100 and 150. The majority came from the town of Newton itself but the entire county was represented. We had speakers from Neshoba county, and Lauderdale county but the main speakers were local Newton county people. Mrs. Crowell of Meridian [illegible] spoke about the MIssissippi Freedom Democratic Party and the local Newton County people showed considerable interest in its programs once they found that it was run by the local people in each county. One of the main speakers from Newton was William Earle Paine, a 18 year old, who had spent eight days in the Jackson city "compound" as a result of his participation in the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party demonstration in Jackson June 14, 1965. The local people in Newton were impressed by his telling of his experiences and because of his participation in the demonstration interest has grown in the county for the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party. Our impression is that the local people in attendance felt the rally was sucess and this is our belief also.

We are now in the process of setting up voter registration classes. Our hope is to keep the classes as small as possible because we feel that we can be more effective by moving around the town each nite. holding meetings in the local communities. The first class we had was held on July 1, 1965 and five eligable voters in attendance and two who will soon be elgible. We have contacted a number of people in the community who will allow us to use their houses for such classes and we hope to start holding meetings nightly starting nest week(which is the week beginning July 5).

July 2 we talked with Mayor McMillan of Newton telling him that we were now working in the county. We talked with him for about 15 min. but he did not give us any specific answeres about such tings as the population of the county or the plans for desegregation of the public accommadations and schools in Newton and the county.

We are very enthusiastic about the interest which is shown by the youth of the county in civil rights. They are now attempting to organize a Newton County Youth Club and a planning committee met on July 2 to plan for a mass youth meeting July 4 at Miss Luella Robinson's house. This committee sees the main fullctions of the Club as centered around voter registration workshops, non-violence workshops and the testing of public accommidations in Newton County. This club will also serve as a strong fordce for canvessing.

Sincerely,

George Smith Jr.

Leake

Aug. 1964

Conta ct persons in Leake County - families willing to House civil rights workers

Marydell Community -
Mr. Roger Tucker - will house 1-2 workers
Mr. Curtis Rogers - will house 1-2 "

Marybethel Community
Rev. Ollie Crouthar- will house 1-2 with his uncle
Mr. J. C. Crouthar - will house 1 (check back)
Mr. Vel Sanders - (Main contact in area)
Mr. Mac Graham - will house 4 workers

Ofahoma & Old Jerusalem community
Mrs. Lisa McNickles - will house 3 persons - no white workers
Miss Bernice Bodie - will house 2 workers, Negro or white
Mrs. Olla Wilder - will house 1 worker
Mr. & Mrs. John T. Miller - will house 2 (couple or same sex), main contact person
Mr. Coolidge Griffin - has a house (4 rooms) which he will turn over to COFO for their use if necessary. He can also apparently house 4-5 workers too.

Midway Community - Scoot County
Mr. Howard Oden - will house 6 workers - check back Sat. afternoon, Aug. 29

Walnut Grove - True Light Church
Mr. Johnny Hudson - will house 2-3 workers - good contact person

Lena Community
Mr. Ollie Sparkman - will house 4 workers
Mr. Vince Luckett - will house 1 (?) must check back
Mr. Harry Johnson - main contact

COFO

MIDWAY - South East Leake County

Mr. Howard Oden in Midway Community, Scoot Co. - will house 6 people
come back Sat. afternoon (
Aug. 29)

Mr. Pete Kennedy - main leader in community, very helpful

CONTACT PERSONS - OFAHOMA

Mrs. Lisa McNickles - will house 3 persons - no white
Rte. 4 Box 108 - Off Trace, one left before Red Dog, 2nd house on left.

Miss Bernice Bodie - will house 2 workers - Negro or white
Rte. 4 Box 116 - 1st house on left, west of Old Jerusalem Church

Mrs. Olla Wilder - will house 1 worker
Rte. 4 - North of Old Jerusa lem Church

Mr. & Mrs. John T. Miller - will house 2 workers, also good contact in area up 43 1st house on right past New Jerusalem Church

Mr. Coolidge Griffin - has 1 house, will house 4-5 persons if necessary, he will turn house (four room) over to COFO to use as they please.

Will not House workers

Mrs. Mary Smith - registered
Mrs. Annie Wilder - "
Mrs. Amanda Wilder- "
Mrs. Carlon Wilder- "
Mrs. Olla Wilder - not registered
Mrs. Emma Wilder - " "
Mrs. Rosie Carson - " "

CONTACTS - MARYBETHEL COMMUNITY

Rev. Ollie Crouthar - will place 1 or 2 with uncle

Mr. J. C. Crouthar - will house 1 (check back)

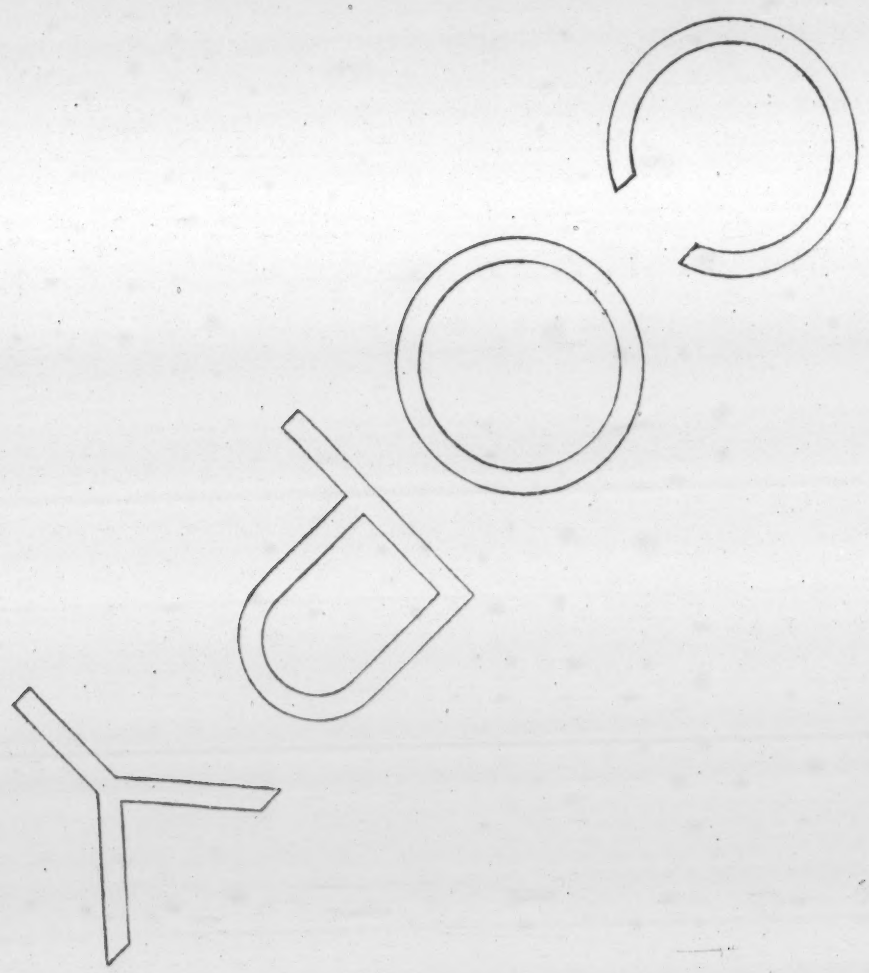
Mr. Vel Sanders - will be main contact in community

Mr. Mac Graham - will house 4 persons

CONTACT PERSONS - MARYDELL COMMUNITY

Mr. Roger Tucker will house 1-2 persons

Mr. Curtis ~~Tucker~~ Rogers (son of Roger) - will house 1-2 persons



Conta ct Persons in Koscuisko, Miss.

Johnny Mellett 289-1279
Rt. 1 Box 101

J. C. Clark
Rt. 3 Box 11 8

J. W. Roger
Rt. 3 Box 223

Curtis Wilder
R. 3 Box 219

F. J. Mollett

R. L. Clark
Rt. 3 Box 118

Bessie Mae Clark
Rt. 3 Box 118

Plus Mc Adory
Rt. 3 Box 228

Clara Martin
Rt. 3 Box 118

Lola Nash
Rt. 3 Box 70
Edward Earl
Rt. 3 Box 108

Dean Nash
Rt. 3 Box 216

Irene and Johnny Williams
Rt. 3 Box 118

Thelma Rogers

Sam Mollett
Rt. 3 Box 218

Thelma Clark
Rt. 3 Boc 118

Frances Mollett
Rt. 3 Box 218

Floie Allen
Rt. 3 Box 226

Naomi Allen
Rt. 3 Box 226

Rosie Chestnut
Rt. 3 Box 118

Bessie Mollett
Rt. 3 Box 218
Dorothy Nash
Rt. 3 Box 70

J. W. Riley
Rt. 3 Box

Tribulation Church - off Highway 16 near Pine Tree Filing Station

Minister's Meeting 2 p.m. The Rev. Walter F. Summers in the key man

PARENTS AND FIRST GRADE CHILDREN

Harmony:

Mrs. Honryne Greer - girl, Sylvia Colette Greer
Judge Sanders - girl, Esther Marie Sanders
Mr. Willy Junior Gates - boy, Willie James
Mrs. Christine Gates - girl, ~~Regina~~ Gates (?) Rufus JR.
Mr. O. W. McKee - boy, Walter Luther McKee
Mr. Bobby Langdon - girl, Linda Michelle
Mr. Claude Lee Sanders -

Carthage:

Mrs. Minnie Lewis - girl, Debra Lewis

Walnut Grove:

Mr. Johnnie Hudson - girl, Dollino Arnette Hudson
Mrs. Grace Richman - girl,

Ofthoma:

Mr. Since Odell - girl,
Mrs. Nevia Mae Lewis Luizotti - boy, Darnell Boyde
Mr. Mack Willie Lewis - girl, Shirley Ann Lewis
Mr. John Harris - boy, Clifton Harris
Mrs. Lilly Griffin - boy, Lester Single , Rto. 1 Box 478, Ofahoma
Mr. Johnny Greenwood - boy, Billy Ray Greenwood, Rto. 4 Box 177, Carthage
Mrs. Minnie P. Boyde - Rto. 4 Box 172, Carthage
Mr. Willie B. Wilder - boy, Johnny C. Dover, Rto. 4 Box 168, Carthage

Harmony Summer Project August 17, 1964

Monday, August 17 at 7:00 p.m. the Leake County Freedom Movement held its first county wide meeting at the Harmony Community Center. The meeting was moderated by the Rev. John Peck.

The first item of business was the school situation. Harry Greer and Robert Dodd gave a skit acting out the problems of the Negro schools and made a plea to the parents and leaders of the community to do something about the terrible situation in the schools. They also encouraged all students to stay out of school until their demands were met by the school board. Part of their plea was to encourage Negro students to file letters demanding to be transferred to integrated schools, (2nd through 12 graders).

Miss Ma rian Wright, a lawyer for NAACP, stated that it was not necessary for students to stay out of the schools. NAACP suggested that all students return to school, ending the boycott, and have decided the best prodedure for dealing with the school problems is for the parents of Leake county to file a petition to the Board of Education demanding that their requests be heard and that these demands be given immediately. (A copy of the petition is enclosed). Miss Wright also encouraged all students to write letters to the Justice Department requesting to be transferred to white schools. These letters are to be given to Miss ~~Wir~~ Wright who will send them on ~~the~~ to the Justice.Dept. Miss Wright also stressed the necessity to have Negro children register in white schools on Sept. 1 when the schools open for the fall. This applies only to first graders, but it is imperative for these children to appear at school, for otherwise the Negro people will be set back several years. She also assured the community that there would be federal protection for these children. The older children will register and be in school on Aug. 28 so the small first graders ca n receive more attention by teachers and not be bothered by older children. Mrs. Mercedes Wright, NAACP, Field Secretary, pleaded with parents to give their children the opportunities they themselves did not have. Today children need more education than a generation ago, and the only way to receive this education is to get the best - this means attending white schools.

Mr. Haywood Burns, a Yale Law students, and another man who is a New York lawyer, interpreted to the community all their rights and privileges which they have received under the Civil Rights Bill of 1964. But the only way to receive these rights is to request them - to test the law and demand your lawful rights. (A Copy of the Civil Rights Act, abbreviated, is attached). Mr. Frank Jones was the lawyer who interpreted the Civil Rights Bill of 1964 to the Community.

Mrs. Winson Hudson also made a plea to parents to send their first graders to the integrated schools in Sept. She is the person in the community in charge of circulating the petition to improve Negro schools.

Mrs. Marie McKee made a financial report on the community center. To date over $2,000. has been raised and about $1,000. has been spent to pay for supplies. The balance is over $1,000. The Community center is being finished on the inside. Electrica l wiring, installation of plumbing, and finishing the interior wa lls still need to be done.

Ricky Sherover and Donald Winkelman of the COFO Caravan led the community in folk singing and freedom songs.

Over 115 persons were present. The majority were from Harmony but there were a few individuals from Lena, Walnut Grove and Carthage. The next Freedom Meeting will be held next Monday evening at 7 p.m. at the Harmony Community Center.

The response of the meeting was excellent - the spirit of the people encouraging. But there was real dissapointment on the part of teenagers who wanted to continue to boycott the schools. There was also an unfortunate incident since Miss Wright of NAACP had not conferred with Theodies Hewitt, COFO project director, concerning the ending of the school boycott. The community was presented with two alternatives, but Miss Wright's statement was so strong that the community could not refuse her position. But the young people were not convinced that returning to school would help them receive their demands from the School Board. They also felt that they learned much more in the Freedom Schools than in the Negro schools so they were not losing any educational experience - but gaining by staying out of school. The community did seem to give in quieting to trying the NAACP proposal, but they were not convinced they would get results. NAACP has a responsibility to help this county by seeing to it that the Board of Education discusses their demands and does something concrete about meeting these.

Respectfully submitted,

Mrs. Dorothy S. Asham
NCC Volunteer - Aug. 16-31, 1964.

Harmony Community August 20, 1964

Time was spent planning the office at the community center and deciding what supplies would be needed. Annie-Jeanne Hudson has been selected to work with Dot Asha m to set up a system of communications and to run the office. At present all records of the summer work cannot be found. Particularly those on communcations, the Federal programs and freedom schools.

Harland Johnson, a free-lance news reporter of Illinois was in the community getting information to sand to newspapers. A nurse and doctor also were present in the community. Lawyers from the Justice Department also questioned local people about harrassment and threats. All such incidents are to be reported to civil rights workers who will turn the information over to the FBI for investigation.

Thurston went to Madden to see Clarence Wells concerning names and addresses of clergy in the county. He was given no information.

In the evening, groups were going to visit revivals at True Light and Rising Chapel 9 where they had been refused admission on Tues.) but the local teenagers presented a play "One Step to Freedom" written by Jeannie Franklin and directed by her and Connie Cla ywell . The play presented the plot of a sharecropper who was seeking and wanted freedom but was threatened by Mr. Charlie. Freedom songs were interwoven into the play. The teenagers did such a good job that they plan to polish their performance and will present it on 8 Aug. 31 at the Freedom Movement Meeting. The play received tremendous response from the community. It is hoped that the students will present it to many communities in the future. Richard Beymer was present to film the performance, but the insufficient lighting prevented this. Several from Lena were a lso present at the meeting. The program closed with everyone pa rticipating in freedom singing.

Respectfully submitted,

Dorothy S. Asham
NCC Volunteer

Landy McNair and Randy spent the night in Ofahoma and visited the parents of first grade children. Three families are likely to send their children to integrated schools on Sept. 1. They are: Bines Odell, who has a girl and will agree if others do; Nevia Maz Lewis Lukett, whose boy is Carnell Boyde, agrees; and Mack Willie Lewis, whose girl is Shirley Ann Lewis, also agrees. There is another family who has twins, but it has been impossible to speak to their father at the present time. At the meeting on Tuesday at Old Jerusalem, lawyers will be present to interpret to the parents their legal rights and assure protection for their children.

The FBI visited Mrs. Winson Hudson, requesting the names, addresses of a ll children going to integrated schools on Sept. 1. They also want to know the kind and color of car, the license number, and route which these children will be taken to school. They promised to be present to protect and watch, but said we would not see them. One thing must be made clear. Although the local school board and local police have guaranteed the children admittance to school and protection from all harrassment, will the FBI step in if the local officials fail to keep their word or are unable to handle the situation. The FBI and Miss Jean Fairfax will return on Thursday of next week, to talk with all families and get the above information. The problem of protection should be discussed at that time.

Mrs. Hudson (Winson) and Mrs. Dobie Hudson and Theodies Hewitt visited two families in Carthage who have first grade children. They have agreed to send their children to integrated schools - Debra Lewis is one girl , daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Lewis, and

Dot Asham and Carol Gross and Annie-Jeanne Hudson spent time trying to make and inventory of the library books, which are in one of the houses of Mrs. B. E. MacDonald. There are about 5,000 books, which must be catalogued, arranged a nd listed. Dot Asham has begun working on a cataloguing system, which will be simple enough for the local people to use with ease. Carol Gross will follow up on this and see to it that all books are included in the inventory, and then catalogued. Sample cards and a description of the system will be in writing so new workers coming in can continue and see that this large job is finally completed.

The fa milies with first grade children in Harmony are Mrs. Henryne Greer, Mr. Judge Sanders, Mr. Willy Junior Gates, Mrs. Christine Gates, Mr. O.W. McKee, Mr. Bobby Langdon, and Mrs. Claudia Lee Sanders. The first 5 are more likely to send their children than the last 2 parents. Mr. John Hudson of Walnut Grove is also very likely to send his child to integrated school. He is willing but would like someone else from his community to send their child too.

Carol Gross and Bud Thurston will work together to plan an adult educational program at the community center for the fall and winter. Recreational equipment has been promised from various sources. Carol has made these arrangements. A file of resource people, i.e. doctors, college professors, federal project people, should be made so that local people and workers can call on these people to help carry out these educa tional programs. Carol Gross is also working on setting up some sort of "after-school" freedom school to help the children in their studies and to fill-in the gaps left by the local school system.

Dianne Hudson a nd about 12 other teenagers in the community sent letters to the Justice Department requesting school transfers. These letters were sent to Miss Marian Wright of NAACP.

A la wyer from England and his companion were here gathering information in order to write an accurate and complete report on "Criminal Justice in the

Carol Gross, Bud Thurston, and Harry Greer attended the Roman Catholic Church near Ofahoma. They attended the service for whites, but their group was integrated. The priest welcomed them openly and preached about equality and integra tion. He (the priest) runs a parochial school which is largely attended by Indians (Choctau), but a year or so ago he admitted Negroes into the school. His current project is to find white families who are willing to send their children to the school. His aim is to have a truly integrated school. The Priest is Father Maurice of St. Ann's and the school of which he is in charge is St. Joachim School.

Bud Thurston, John Peck and Dot Asham attended the High Hill Church (Negro) near Providence in Neshoba County at the 11o'clock service. The Rev. G.W. Staffney, minister and Deacon Clarence Wells welcomed us. Some of the people who attend this church live in Leake County. The young people in this a rea are very much afraid and suspicious of white people and civil rights workers. To date there have been no workers in this area. None of the people have joined the Freedom Party, registered to vote, or plan to send their children to white schools. They do not know if they are allowed to send their children to these schools. The adults in the community were much more receptive of our presence. The minister asked all of us to speak. Dot Asham spoke about why civil rights workers had come to Mississippi, Bud Thurston spoke about the position of the Freedom Party and their case at the Democratic Convention and John Peck preached with emphasis placed upon the need of local Negroes to stand up for what they believe and for their rights. Many of the people in this area are very afraid to do anything to challenge the traditional position and thinking of white people. There was also great unrest because the killers of Chaney, Goodman, and Schwerner had not been found, or arrested. At present the FBI is working above ground in the area. The Sheriff, we were told, has tried to commit suicide several times, but the FBI has intervened ea ch time.

Late afternoon Theodies Hewitt and John Peck met to decide on the strategy for the next week. Peck, Thurston, Hewitt, McNair and Randy will make as many contacts throughout Leake County, to find homes for civil rights workers to live in, make local contacts who will help organize their local communities to further voter registration, school integration, and county wide projects and educa tional programs. This contacting will take place early every morning during this week. This is the beginning of the COFO plan to organize the freedom movement throughout this area.

The Hudson's (Winson) had visiters from Carthage and Harmony of families willing to send their children to integrated schools. There will definitely be some children in white schools.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dorothy S. Asham
NCC - Volunteer

Harmony Community August 24, 1964

John Peck and Bud Thurston went into the northern part of Leake County to make new contacts. This area has not been visited prior to now and the presence of white people in Negro homes creates uneasiness and fear on the part of the Negroes.

Asham spent much of the day trying to set up a file system for the office and communication system. Carol Gross continued the long tedious job of ma king an inventory of the library books.

In the evening the second Leake County Freedom Movement Meeting was held at the Ha rmony Community Center. Many adults from the community were not present as it is canning time. There were about 50-70 in attendance. Miss Netter Page,COFO, led the group in freedom songs. Theodies Hewitt spoke about the necessity for all adults to register to vote before October 1. Mrs. Dobie Hudson questioned whether it was too late to register to vote in the Presidential election in November. On Tues. or Wed. a few local people plan to go to the Court House in Carthage to register and they will find out when the dea dline is. The Registrar in Leake County is very lenient now as he ha s been charged with prohibiting Negroes to register, so now he is willing to register them. Mrs. Winson Hudson spoke about the need to get first grade children into white schools. The Community will help all families who are hurt by job losses ~~and~~ through voter registration and school integration. The aid will be in the form of food, clothing, lunches for school children, and protection of homes if necessary. All cases of loss through voting and school integra tion should be reported immediately in order to help families financially and legally. Dot Asham spoke about the meaning of freedom as related to being yourself and living for what you believe - follow those who treat you the way you want to be treated, and ignore those who dictate to you and make you serve their ends and desires. In short be yourself, do not compromise because you are important and you count.

The teenagers who present the play on Thursday Aug. 20 will rehearse under the direction of Dot Asham several times this week, beginning Wed. at 4:30 p.m. in order to polish their performance for the next Leake County Freedom Movment Meeting on Monday August 31 at Harmony Community Center. This group will also begin lea rning new freedom songs and form a Choir. Records and song books have been requested from Jackson COFO office to help these young people learn new freedom songs.

Adults from other communities were present at the meeting. They met after the general meeting was over to discuss how to organize their local communities. These people took school improvement petitions back to their own communities for signing. It seems to be the concensus of civil rights workers and local leaders here that the most effective contacts and entries into new communities can be made through Negro civil rights workers and local people from Harmony. Certainly a mixed group is far more effective than a white group. Local people who have sa crificed something here can persuade other communities to take the risks required if freedom is to become a reality. Outside workers cannot do this as effectively simply because they do ~~know~~ not have to make these risks themselves, nor ~~do~~ have they experienced the slavery or hardships of the local people - and a white man will never know what being a Negro really is.

The visitors from outside Harmony are to ma ke ontacts for the next meeting and will try to get their own people to join the movement. These people are: Mr. Harry Johnson, Mr. Morgan and Mr. Sparkman of Lena; the Rev. Ollie Crouthar of North Carthage, and Mr. Roger Tucker and Mrs. Curtis Tucker of Marydell.

Respectfully submitted, Dorothy S. Asham

Harmony Community August 25 -29, 1964

Much of the week Dot Asham spent organizing and typing records, establishing a file system and procedures for the office, and training Annie-Jean Hudson to be in charge of the community office and communications.

Tuesday afternoon a meeting was set up in Ofahoma at Old Jerusalem Church by Randy Glenn and Landy McNair. Other staff who were present were: John Peck, Bud Thurston, Theodies Hewitt, Natter Page, Carol Gross and Dr. Arthur Dunn and Miss Mary Macarter from the Medical corps. Local people from Harmony also attended the meeting: Mrs. Winson Hudson, Annie Maud Vaxter, Diand and Annie-jean Hudson, and Jinny Dale Greer. The local people of Ofahoma numbered 29. A lawyer from LCDC arrived for the meeting but left before 4 p.m., the time scheduled for the meeting.

Because the la wyers were not present it was decided that another meeting should be scheduled for Friday, Aug. 28 at 4 p.m. Much of the decussion at the meeting centered around spea king the truth and acting on one's beliefs rather than fearing the Uncle Toms and the Mr. Charlies. Mrs. Winson Hudson reported information she had received about the integration of schools in Lea ke County. The school board had promised protection for Negro children. The other children would enroll on Aug. 28 and the first grade children would register on Sept. 1; this would insure more tea cher and administrative attention for the first graders and would mean the upperclasses would already be in school. Mrs. Hudson gave a very encouraging talk about not compromising oneself, not being afraid, for the Negro could not really loose. He has been hurt so much and for so long that little more could happen to him. The community responded very positively to her remarks and her warmth and commitment. The Hudson girls led the group in freedom songs.

Dr. Dunn told some thing about what the doctors' group would be trying to do to help meet the medical needs of Negroes in Miss. There are many problems, one being that doctors cannot practice medicine without a state license, another being the limited number of doctors willing to commit themselves to this work. But the original aim was to give aid to COFO workers, yet this has expanded to attempt to meet the needs of the Negro communities. No specific plans have been made, but fund raising and other programs will have to be started as soon as possible.

It was announced that the Community Center in Harmony will be opening a week from Sat, Sept. 5. All the people are invited. Teenage groups will be formed, the children will give a play that evening, and the teenagers will sing.

The discussion was cut short as it was late and would continue on Friday when a lawyer would be present.

~~Thur~~ Tuesday evening, John Peck, Bud Thurston, Carol Gross and Jimmy Dale Greer along with a local person from Ofahoma attended a church in Maxville. The Rev. Watkins would not let the group speak to his parishioners. He said he favored the movement but did not welcome outsiders. Finally John Peck said a few words that he was sorry the minister was not open to them, but that many people in the area welcomed outside help. He concluded by stating that "we shall overcome, anyway."

John Peck and Bud Thurston spent Monday through Friday making contacts throughout Leake County and some c ommunities boardering on Leake county. The areas they visited were Marybethel (N.E.), Walnut Grove-Old Jerusalem (N.W.), Bethlehem (S.W.) Midway - New Friendship (S.E.). The contact people in these areas are listed by community on separate sheets.

Wednesda y - Dot Asham rehearsed with the teenagers who have been learning their parts in the play "The First Step to Freedom," which was performed for the first time on Aug. 20 for the Harmony Community. Rehearsals were Wed. and Thurs. of this week to prepare for a performance at Ofahoma on Fri. Several of the original cast were not allowed to take the trip so others had to substitute.

Ca rol Gross spent some time making and inventory and classifying the library books. This job will take months before complete. A sample catalogue card can be found in the Library file. She is also doing literacy tutoring.

A letter was written to Jane Adams for the materials concerning the Farmers Union, so that our files could be ~~p~~ brought up to date in the area of Federal Programs.

Carol Gross ha s also been working on some programs for the teenagers, a play "Cinderella" which will be filmed by the Canadian Broadcast Company on Sunday, for television, and will be preformed on Sept. 5 at the opening of the Community Center. Carol is also making plans for a fall Freedom School. She will make a complete report on this.

Committees will need to be set up for selecto buying, welfare, community programs, freedoms schools, and farmers union, once the contacts throughout the county have been established and the Leake County freedom movement is more organized.

ON Thursda y John Peck and Bud Thurston went to the Choctaw Fair and visited with Philip Martin , Chief of the Choctaw tribe.

Friday, the meeting at Ofahoma took place. Annie-Jean Hudson willreport on this.

Saturday, John Peck and Bud Thurston went to Bethlehem Church to announce to a ministers meeting tha t the Leake County Freedom Movment Ministerial Association would be meeting on Sunday, August 30 at 2 p.m. at the Tribulation Church off Highway 16. There were no ministers there at the time. After driving to Jackson to take Peck to the airport and to bring the Freedom Democratic Party delegates ba ck to Harmony and Carthage, Thurston, Asham and Harry Greer went to Bethlehem Church to announce the meeting, but none of the contact ministers were present. After visiting several homes of ministers, we finally left the responsibility to sprea d the word of the meeting with the Rev. Ollie Crouthar. The reason the letters were never mailed is because the addresses and names of the clergy were incomplete to such a degree that the letter was useless.

Thurston and Asham will leave on Sun Aug. 30. Then Theodies and Carol Gross will be the only staff persons in Harmony with Randy Glenn and Netter Page in Ofahoma.

Respectfully submitted,

Dorothy S. Asham

a national organization with affiliated local groups working

CONGRESS OF CORE RACIAL EQUALITY

Leake

to abolish racial discrimination by direct, nonviolent methods

38 PARK ROW
NEW YORK 38, NEW YORK
COrtlandt 7-6270

James Farmer
national director
Richard Haley
associate
Gordon Carey
assistant
Carl Rachlin, Esq.
general counsel

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Ralph Abernathy
James Baldwin
Roger N. Baldwin
Katrina M. Barnes
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James B. Carey
Allan Knight Chalmers
Grenville Clark
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Martin Luther King
Douglas Levin
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treasurer
James Peck
CORElator editor

STAFF
Norman Hill
program director
James McCain
director of organization
Marvin Rich
community relations director

Route 4 Box 116
Carthage, Miss.
January 25, 1965

Core Southern Office
2209 Dryades Street
New Orleans Louisiana
c/o Vonnie Jean Jones

Dear Miss Jones,

Here is the list in which you ask for of present staff in Leake Country. They are: Randy Glenn project director and Theadois Hewitt, Staff voter-Annie Pearl Clay and Nena. Work study Staff- Earnestine Wilder and Willie Henry Wilder. Local Volunteer to become work study are: Ethel Boone, Rachel Grove, Clara Nell Martin, Joyce Ann Griffin, Josephine Boone, Cludette Rushing, Bernice Wilder and Paul Griffin.

Our present Center is location in Harmony, rent free.

Budget for the month of November-December is $250.00. Money that was spent for gasoline, rent and supplies.

Randy Glenn
Route 4 Box 116
Carthage, Mississippi

Yours for Freedom
for all America,
4th District
Randy Glenn
Randy Glenn

Leake Co.

ofhoma Report

By

Randy M Glenn

c. Jan. 1965

Ofhoma Report + Finance Report + Staff Report

November. In month of November We worked in Leake + Madision County. In Leak we worked on F.H.A loans So Far only two have been approved and these Were two of our hardest Ones. these are Some of the cases we had to take to Jackson office of F.H.A Because the Local agent would not act Wright. We also had our regular meeting of the Leak County Farmers Ace. this Farmers Ace was formed on the first Sunday in november We have 85 Payed members as of today This Grope is really growing fast. It is Made up of all Local farmers. We also are having Weeking Work Shop on Voter regesteration. I have been Working with High School Students on Week end with these Work Shops. these Young People hope to become more active in Work Study after they graduait in May. We Also Work the north End of Madision County for the A C S Clection in area G. or Better Known as the Mt Zion area. Where throw Canvasing We Were able to get Mo Luther Honeycutter Clected. there was no Money other than My Pay Check for opprating Expances But we Were able to get the Job Done. And I might Add a Good one

Ofhoma Report on Staff + Finance

December In Month of Dec We began With a Staff meeting in Hattisburgh. this meeting Lasted about 4 Days. It was Where We had our Work Cut out for the Congrosional Challange. On Returning to my Project we began to do Just that. We held work Shops and Began to raise Funds. And We help Andrew Green in Work Shop in Valley View. We Were Able to raise in Ofhoma a total of $175.00 and 10 firm Committments of P.ople Who would go to repsent Ofhoma. We also open two new Church in month of December one is Christian Union one We having beein Working on for about three Months. And Galice a nother We had been working on for a Longe time We Should be able to get More People Involved now Because we have these two new Church open. as People Don't have to Come So far to meeting and So far things are really looking up. We Also had toys that had Come in in the Welfare things We gave to Familys Who could not afford to By them and made a Lot of kids happy. In The farmer meetings there Were 15 new members. Dick Jewitt and his Wife Spent a day With us and talk to Some of the people in which We had been Working with in F.H.A Loans. And there Was only $60.00 from Jackson office in month of December for opperating Expance. all other Expance came from my Pocket. And Agin I must Say the Students and I did a good Job

Present Staff for Oklahoma-Christian Univ

St Ann - Desmaska Gallilee - Free Mission

Randy Glenn - C.O.R.E
Earnestine Wilder - Work Study
Willie H Wilder - Work Study

High School Students Week End only

Josephine Boone GIGI from Jackson
Bernice Wilder Hattie Palumer from Jackson
Paul Griffin
Caldett Rushin
Joyce ann Griffin
Clare Nell Martian

Cooledge Griffin Has been Driving me around Since I Don't Presleting have a car

Finance

total Received from Jackson office in Nov and Dec 50.00. Money Spent for Gas and food for Staff on Road

— Hayle

Randy M. Glenn
Rte. 4, Box 116
Carthage, Miss.

C Jan. 1965

Richard Hayle

New Orleans, La.

Dear Sir:

I am writing you in reference to the list of needs that we talked about in New Orleans.

It is very important that we get a jeep, stationwagon with four wheel drive, so as we can continue our work in the rural. We also need powerful two-way radios so that we are able to communicate over these mountains. Since there are danger on both sides of us, namely Madison and Neshoba county they are very important.

It is very important that we get these sets immediately.

Yours For Free America

Randy M. Glenn

Randy M. Glenn

Council Of Federated Organizations

Randy M. Glenn
Rte. 4, Box 116
Carthage, Miss.

Richard Hayle
New Orleans, La.

Dear Sir:

We task force workers here in Mississippi are in constant need of operating funds to continue the work here in the Mississippi Project. I have seen so many people here who need food and winter clothing,home repairs,and medical supplies. These things are very badly needed (now). It will take a lot of money and material goods to complete the Mississippi project. These people do not have sufficient needs to supply these funds for themselves.

Here are some of the ways our fellow CORE Chapters around the country can help in this most worthy effort:

1. Contact social clubs, churches, friends who will be willing to make monthly contributions to the Mississippi project.

2. Send as often as possible a 40-foot trailer of (good) used and new clothing, non-perishable foods, medical supplies, building supplies such as; nails, roofing, insulation paper, lumber, wireing capables, bath tubs, showers,and comoles.
(Office Supplies) working typewriters, memograph machines, paper, stencils, pencils, and books.

3. Have mass rallies frequently to raise funds for the Mississippi project.

4. Start chain letters for the Mississippi Project.

5. Adoption program; Where a person can support a child or an intire family with monthly contributions sent directly to the family.

6. We will be on speaking tours in Janurary and February. Set up speaking engagements in your town. We will be able to make speeches approximately twice a day, because there's a time in each town is limited.

Council Of Federated Organizations

7. Make all checks payable to ; Mississippi Core c/o Dave Dennis, 1017 Lynch St. Jackson, Miss.

Yours For Freedom in American

Randy M. Glenn

Randy M. Glenn

p.s. Send me a complete list of all core chapters in the United States so we can get the fund raising underway in the next week.

File
Leake Co.
Carthage

CORE SOUTHERN OFFICE
2209 Dryades Street
New Orleans, Louisiana 70113

February 22, 1965

Mrs. Winson Hudson
Route 3, Box 243
Carthage, Mississippi

Dear Mrs. Hudson:

It is months now since you wrote James Farmer about Annie Pearl Clay. I have talked to Dich Jewett about Miss Clay; he speaks very highly of her. Randy Glenn has also spoken well of the young lady.

I would like to be able to promise you that Miss Clay will be placed on the Task Force as a regular worker immediately, but CORE's financial situation does not allow us to place any additional people on the Task Force right now. However, the time will come when we will be able to add more personnel, and Miss Clay will be among the first considered at that time.

Meantime, I would advise her to write to the CORE Scholarship, Education and Defense Fund if she is interested in furthering her education. This fund is set up especially to assist young people who have been active in civil rights and do not have the money for any further education. If she will write to the Fund about her hopes for education, where she wants to go, when she wants to begin, it is possible that SEDF can help her.

Miss Clay is very fortunate to have someone like you who takes an interest in her welfare. In truth, it benefits CORE as well as the young lady; unselfish interest is an inspiration to all our staff. May the blessings of peace and liberty (eventually) enfold you.

Sincerely,

Richard Haley
CORE Southern Director

RH/vjj

Leake Co.

March 14, 1965

DIRECTOR: Theodis Hewitt
Leake County Project
Carthage, Miss.

WORKER PLACEMENT: PERSONS NEEDED IN EACH COMMUNITY

We plan to work five different Community: To do this, we need the number of people in each Community.

1. WALNUT GROVE COMMUNITY
   2 Voter-Registration
   3 Freedom School Teacher

2. OFAHOMA COMMUNITY
   2 Freedom School Teacher
   3 Voter-Registration

3. THE TOWN OF CARTHAGE
   2 Voter-Registration
   3 Freedom School Teacher

4. CONWAY COMMUNITY
   2 Voter-Registration
   3 Freedom School Teacher

5. LENA COMMUNITY & TADOLA COMMUNITY
   3 Voter-Registration
   3 Freedom School Teacher

WE NEED 3 PERSONS TO RUN POLITICAL WORK-Across the County.

TOTAL AMOUNT STAFF =29

We plan to work the whole County at one time, and to do this we will need no less than 2 cars, to work each areas.
We have contacted each of these Community and local people of these community will houses these people, for six or eight weeks.

Draw V.R. workers from community
Describe Freedom School

3 copies are being send out.

New York Office
Jackson Office
New Orleans Office

REPORTER:

DIRECTOR: THEODIS HEWITT

ANNIE JEAN HEWITT & ANNIE P. CLAY

on or about Jan 24, 1964

Robert F. Kennedy
Burke Marshall

ANOTHER ARREST IN CANTON, MISSISSIPPI. CAROLE MERRITT TODAY CHARGED WITH CONTRIBUTING TO THEDELINQUENCY OF A MINOR; ARRESTED YESTERDAY FOR DISTRIBUTING LEAFLETS. AGAIN DEMAND IMMEDIATE FEDERAL INVESTIGATION TO PROTECT CONSTITUTIONAL FREE SPEECH AND VOTING RIGHTS.

David Dennis
CORE Field Secretary
Ass't Program Director , COFO

JAN 30 1964

President Lyndon B. Johnson
Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy

Canton, Mississippi. Demand immediate investigation and intervention by federal government into police harassment and brutality against voter registration workers and local citizens. Last night police told people not to attend vr meeting in a church. City detective threatened Negroes on church steps of meeting. Said I'm going to kill a nigger tonight. George Raymond, vr worker, kicked, threatened by Constable Hervey Evans. Raymond pistol-whipped a month ago by police. In last three days 50 people have sought to register. Only 6 allowed to take test. Local citizen George Washington's life threatened yesterday. All our previous requests for federal action, registrars, protection have been to no avail./ Remember Canton July 24,1963. Price Louis shot 5 vr workers on Peace Street. Louis free now after paying $500 fine. Over 6,000 of Canton's 9,000 population are Negro. We have pleaded with the Justice Department for protection of our lives, property and rights but without response. We cannot afford to wait much longer. We are willing to die to protect our country. We are also willing to die in Canton to obtain those rights that we, thus far, have faithfully defended on foreign soil. The Negroes shall not watch their families starve, be jailed, beaten and killed without responding to protect themselves. You have proven to us by your refusal to act that we have no other recourse but to defend ourselves with whatever means we have at our disposal.

David Dennis
Assistant Program Director
Council of Federated
Organizations

Tuesday January 21, 1964
Canton, Miss.

new city law "anti-circular" ordinance

the Canton board of mayor and aldermen passed it

forbids the circulation, distribution or handing out of any handbill, circular, poster or pamphlet on any sidewalk, municipal street, or in any public place within the city of Canton

newspapers excluded
law does not cover use of mails
~~any~~
any person, firm, ~~partner~~ partnership, organization, association or corporation desiring to deliver or circulate such printed or written material must first make application in writing with a copy of the proposed handbill, circular or poster, to the Mayor and Clerk for permission to do so.

The Mayor and the Chief of Police can authorize or deny such circulars.

Fines: not less than$10 or more than $100
jail ror 30 days or less

f. MADISON COUNTY HERALD
CANTON, MISS. JAN. 23, 1964

HOLD ON

ON TUESDAY, JANUARY 21, THE CITY COUNCIL OF CANTON PASSED A LAW MAKING IT A CRIMINAL OFFENSE TO DISTRIBUTE LITERATURE WITHOUT A PERMIT FROM THE MAYOR AND CHIEF OF POLICE. SUCH LAWS HAVE BEEN DECLARED UNCONSTITUTIONAL BY THE FEDERAL COURTS.

THE OFFICIALS OF CANTON, IN AN ATTEMPT TO DESTROY OUR SUCCESSFUL SELECTIVE BUYING CAMPAIGN, HAVE PASSED THIS LAW IN OPEN DEFIANCE OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT.

WE MUST SHOW THE MAYOR, THE SHERIFF, THE CHIEF OF POLICE, ALONG WITH THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, THAT THEY CANNOT RIDE ROUGHSHOD OVER THE LAWS OF THE UNITED STATES, AND THAT THEY CANNOT FORCE US TO SUPPORT THE CITIZEN'S COUNCIL BY SHOPPING IN THEIR SEGREGATIONIST STORES.

IF WE WERE NOT WINNING THIS CAMPAIGN, THEY WOULD NOT BE HOWLING SO HARD. THEY WOULD NOT HAVE THROWN A DOZEN PEOPLE IN JAIL ON THURSDAY, AND THEY WOULD NOT BE THREATENING THE CORE AND SNCC WORKERS.

IF YOU SHOP AT THE BLACKLISTED STORES NOW, YOU WILL BE HELPING THE POLICE TO PUT THE HANDCUFFS ON THE PEOPLE WHO HAVE GONE TO JAIL FOR

Y O U R F R E E D O M.

DO NOT BUY AT THESE STORES:

1. B & B Store, 314 W. Peace St.
2. C & C Store, No. 1, 141 W. Peace St.
3. C & C Store, No. 2, 702 W. North St.
4. Cozy Corner, 299 Peace St.
5. Fred's Dollar Store, 414 W. Peace St.
6. Florence's W. Peace Grocery, 417 W. Peace St.
7. Massey's Grocery, Corner, Peace and Fulton St.
8. May's Food Market, 159 W. Peace St.
9. OK Cleaners, 298 Peace St.
10. Price Lewis Service Station, 431 W. Peace St.
11. Renfroe's Grocery and Market, 353 W. Peace St.
12. Stanley's Department store, 217 W. Peace St.
13. T.W.L., 279 W. Peace St.
14. J.B. Williamson Grocery
15. White Auto Store, 172 Liberty St.
16. Frank Johnson Grocery, Farmhaven, Mississippi
17. Camden Supermarket, Camden, Miss.
18. Henry Starling's Cafe, Cameron St.
19. Smith's Cleaners (Peace St.) and Laundry (Cameron St.)
20. Jitney Jungle, E. Peace St.
21. Liberty Supermarket, N. Liberty St.

AND D O N O T B U Y: Hart's Bread, Mosby's Milk, and Barq's Drinks

M A D I S O N C O U N T Y M O V E M E N T

FREEDOM NOW!

Ten Facts On Boycott

By PHIL MULLEN

CANTON — In a mass meeting on Monday afternoon, the retail merchants of Canton voted to reject the threat of a boycott reported to have been promoted by a small group of Negroes led by outside racial agitators.

At the same time, these business people voted to lay all the facts before the people, including the printing of the mimeographed "Don't Buy, at These Stores" circular which was passed out in Canton on last Saturday. Reproduction of that circular was in the Madison County Herald this week.

With reports being that these racial agitators are threatening and attempting to intimidate those people who do not join in the boycott, Sheriff Jack S. Cauthen and Mayor Stanley Matthews issued strong statements, insisting that the full protecion of the law will be given every person and that agitators who try to threaten or intimidate anyone, or who breach the peace, will be prosecuted to the full extent of the law.

These merchants, and other leading citizens of the community, also stated that they will be on the "look out" for any such threats or intimidation and that they personally, and calling upon the officers of the law, will afford protection for the citizens threatened.

MERCHANTS LISTED

Sixteen merchants were listed on the "Don't Buy" circular and none of them could understand just why they were selected.

E. C. Henry, as president of the Chamber of Commerce and as one of the affected merchants, said at the meeting: "We have built our businesses on the basis that we give a full dollar's value, that we give competitive prices, that we serve every customer courteously and without discrimination, and that we appreciate every customer. We can do no more than that, no matter what the situation."

Mr. Henry and Frank E. Allen, president-elect of the Chamber of Commerce, also issued statements which appear herewith. Mr. Allen, the banker, said, in part; "We appeal to the good judgement and commonsense of all responsible and law abiding citizens to disregard the irrational statements of a few radicals in our midst who would incite unrest and ill will among the people of both races."

As to the effect of the boycott, several of the named merchants said their business last Saturday was "off some" but that could also be due to the weather and the time of the year.

SHERIFF SERIOUS

Sheriff Jack Cauhen, in his statement, emphasized: "As Sheriff of Madison County, with the knowledge that I have co-extensive jurisdiction in the cities and towns of the county, I openly state that I will, as chief law enforcement officer in said county, enforce the laws to the best of my ability, will surpress any conspiracies designed to cause unrest, protect all of the citizens of Madison County, to the fullest of my ability, and as Sheriff of Madison County, will endeavor to the fullest extent to afford protection to all people and will attempt to insure the due processes of law to the citizens of Madison County."

Police Chief Dan Thompson, stating that he is "in complete agreement with the views expressed by the Mayor," has pledged that the cooperation of his entire force in protecting the rights of the citizens.

In his statement, Mayor Matthews said, "We pledge that full protection of the law, and any person attempting to intimidate or interfer with any citizen engaged in the exercise of his lawful rights will be prosecuted to the full extent of the law. We will cooperate with all law enforcement agencies in carrying out this pledge."

Racial agitators have been active in Canton for the past several months. Observers state they have been unable to enlist any great amount of support

As evidenced by the great amount of publicity in this issue of The Herald, the city and county officials and officers of the law, and the business people, are taking the boycott threat quite seriously.

Pointing out that the local economy has been greatly expanded in recent years through new industries and development in business and agriculture, Mr. Henry, of the Chamber of Commerce, also said, "There are now outside agitators among us who would destroy that which has been developed over the years."

At the meeting on Monday, attended by city officials and by the sheriff's representative, the leading citizens asked that publicity be given to the fact that they "invite calls from people who are being threatened that full protection can be given."

WASH POST 2/1/64

Justice Gets Rights Plea Of Students

The Justice Department was asked yesterday to protect civil rights workers who were jailed in Canton, Miss., after their drive for Negro voter registration there.

Carole Winston, a 20-year-old Vassar junior who lives at 5800 Nebraska ave. nw., presented a petition signed by 986 Vassar students and faculty members to Assistant Attorney General Burke Marshall.

One of the 14 civil rights workers arrested last Jan. 24 for passing out leaflets in Canton was Carol Merritt, of Cincinnati, a 23 - year- old Negro Vassar graduate who has been working for the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee.

The Justice Department is investigating the arrests to see if Canton authorities have been trying to harass civil rights workers and intimidate Negroes, a Federal offense.

Jackson to Let Its Police Help Town in Racial Case

JACKSON, Miss., Feb. 26 (UPI)—The way was cleared today for the cities of Jackson and near-by Canton to pool their police power in dealing with a mass racial demonstration threatened in Canton Friday.

A bill rushed to completion in the Mississippi Legislature last night, and immediately signed by Gov. Paul B. Johnson Jr., gave municipalities the authority to enter into such "mutual-assistance pacts."

Jackson has been steadily strengthening its police force in recent months and has laid in an extra supply of gas masks, shotguns and helmets. The city also recently purchased a $15,000 tank-like vehicle designed for riot control.

Mayor Allen Thompson said today that these facilities would be available to Canton. Canton is 20 miles north of Jackson. It has a population of 10,000 and is in a farming area with a large Negro population. NYT 2/27/64

JACKSON DAILY NEWS 2/27/64

Canton To Get Assistance From Jackson Police

Gov. Paul B. Johnson has signed into law a bill which will authorize Jackson police to aid authorities in Canton during a threatened racial demonstration Friday.

A member of the governor's office staff said the bill was "rushed through" late Tuesday.

The Congress of Racial Equality has announced there will be a march Friday on the Madison County courthouse at nearby Canton in a mass voter registration attempt.

The new law authorizes municipalities to enter into "mutual assistance pacts" and pool manpower and equipment to cope with disorders and disasters.

Jackson has expanded its police force and equipment during the past two years to deal with racial disturbances. Among its new equipment are shotguns, helmets and a $15,000 riot-control vehicle.

Mayor Allen Thompson, queried about sending officers to other cities, said "the city of Jackson stands ready and willing to furnish any and every assistance possible to supplement the local police, sheriff's forces and the state highway patrol."

The Clarion-Ledger A — Thursday, Feb. 27, 1964

Anti-Riot Laws Put Into Affect By PBJ

By CLIFF SESSIONS
United Press International

Gov. Paul B. Johnson and state legislators acted Wednesday to implement new laws bolstering the power of local officials which could be used to deal with a threatened racial demonstration at nearby Canton Friday.

The Congress of Racial Equality (CORE) plans to conduct a March on the Madison county courthouse in a mass voter registration attempt at Canton, a community of 10,000 located 20 miles north of here in a farm area with a heavy Negro population.

Johnson signed into law a bill authorizing municipalities to pool personnel and equipment for the "prevention and alleviation of riots or civil disturbances."

A bill permitting city officials to restrict the movement of any or all citizens in times of crisis was given final legislative approval by the senate and sent to Johnson for his signature.

CORE spokesman Ed Hollander announced that Norman Thomas, who ran for president four times as a socialist, and 15 ministers represnting the national council of churches would be on hand for the demonstration as "observers."

Hollander said about 200 — "more or less" — Madison county Negroes would attempt to gather at two churches Friday morning and march on the downtown courthouse.

Madison County Sheriff Jack Cauthen was close-mouthed about plans to deal with the demonstrators but he said detailed plans had been drawn. "Every city, large and small, is standing by to lend assistance, if needed," said Cauthen.

Mayor Allen Thompson of Jackson said his city stands "ready and willing" to furnish aid in "handling unlawful activities and in maintaining law and order."

"Under Thompson's direction, the Jackson police force has been expanded and its members trained in riot - control.

Dozens of workers for CORE and the Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) have been heading up a voter drive in Madison county during recent weeks.

The bill which Johnson signed permits municipalities to enter into "mutual assistance pacts or agreements with other municipalities in the assignment of personnel, equipment, supplies and material for the purpose of combatting fires, natural and enemy disasters, and the prevention and alleviation of riots or civil disturbances."

The other measure, which cleared both houses without debate, gives city fathers power "to make additional regulations to protect property, health and lives and to enhance the general welfare of the community by restricting the movement of the citizens, or any group thereof, of such municipalities when there is eminent danger to the public safety because of freedom of movement thereof."

JACKSON DAILY NEWS 2/27/64

Canton Braces For Negro March

Elaborate Plans Made To Avert Any Violence

CANTON, Miss. (Special) — Canton and Madison County law enforcement officers are bracing for a threatened Negro march on the courthouse here Friday in a massive voter registration attempt.

Slated to be among the so-called "observers" at the civil rights demonstrations planned by CORE and other integration organizations is Norman Thomas, Socialist Party leader and a a candidate for the Presidency four times on the Socialist ticket.

Police Chief Dan Thompson said his men and the Madison County Sheriff's Office, headed by Sheriff Jack Cauthen, would seek to control the tense situation "without violence."

Thompson said "we hope to get by without violence" and added law enforcement men would "hold a final meeting this afternoon" to map out plans for preserving law and order.

'WILL BE OUTSIDERS'

"If there's any trouble, it'll be caused by these agitators and outsiders," the chief said.

Integration leaders said at least 200 Negroes would gather early Friday and attempt to form voter registration lines at the circuit clerk's office in the county courthouse.

Thompson said he had 14 men and the sheriff about 10 to seek to preserve order.

The chief said his force had two police dogs, which he said would be used "as a last resort" if trouble broke out. He said fire fighting equipment would also be on a stand-by alert basis.

Also scheduled to be on hand in Canton for the demonstrations are about 12 ministers from the National Council of Churches.

Integration spokesmen here said no picketing was planned and the ministers would not take part in the mass demonstrations.

Jackson police sources indicated today additional law enforcement aid may be marshaled to aid the Canton police if additional help were needed.

The state legislature speeded a bill through hecently allowing city officials to restrict movement of persons in times of crisis, as well as legislation permitting municipalities to pool men and equipment to prevent "riots or civil disturbances."

The Canton demonstrations were apparently planned in New York, for the call for the massive march came from CORE's national director, James Farmer, in a statement issued there.

DAILY NEWS 2/28/64 p1

anton Law Force Ready

By W. C. SHOEMAKER
Daily News Staff Writer

CANTON, Miss.—Negro civil rights groups planned to stand in line at the Madison County Courthouse today in a demonstration of their attempts to register to vote.

Law enforcement agencies here marshaled all available forces to keep the peace, in this town of 10,000. They said they expected no trouble unless "outsiders and agitators" start it.

The demonstration, announced for mid-morning, was scheduled as the climax of a campaign for voter registration among Negroes led by the Congress of Racial Equality and the Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee.

CORE workers said M. Floyd McKissick, national chairman of the organization, planned to be on hand to observe the demonstration.

Norman Thomas, who ran four times for President on the socialist ticket, Thursday night cancelled plans to be in Canton as an observer.

SEND OBSERVERS

The National Council of Churches sent 15 observers, CORE said.

They were identified as the Rev. Arthur Thomas of Durham, N. C., a member of the NCC's commission on religion and race; the Rev. Joseph H. Dwinnel of Cincinnati, Ohio; Huber F. Kleeme of New York City, a member of the council of Christian social action of the United Church of Christ; Ora Huston of Elgin, Ill.; Ian McRae of Indianapolis, Ind.; Ed Wright of Cincinnati; Norma[n] Simmons of Hays, Kan.; Jos[eph] W. Atkins Jr., of Wichita, Kan.; Andrew Gutierrez of Wichita, Kan.; Robert J. Stone of New York City, a member of the United Presbyterian commission on religion and race; Frederick C. Maier of New York, member of the board of Christian education of the United Presbyterian Church of U. S. A.; John Sherman of Chicago; George W. Buckner of Chapel Hill, N. C.; and Howard B. Vail of Westfield, N. J., who was identified as an attorney and ruling elder of his denomination.

CORE said the 15 came to Canton under auspicies of the National Council of Churches as observers and would not participate in the demonstration.

CORE and SNCC workers said they planned no pickets, "just a long, long line."

They said they asked Madison County Registrar Foote Campbell to place deputy registrars on duty to handle the crowd they planned but said they receive no reply.

The County's population is 72 per cent Negro.

Authorities said about 24 full-

CANTON

Continued From Page 1

time officers would be on duty in Canton. In addition, an unannounced number of auxiliary officers were alerted and the highway patrol sent men to Canton.

Other police departments could send men here under a state law which became effective this week, but in Jackson, the nearest large city, Mayor Allen Thompson made no plans to reinforce the Canton lawmen.

He said his officers would be made available only after the Canton police, Madison County sheriff's force and the highway patrol had been used.

250 March in Canton, Miss.

CANTON, Miss., Feb. 28 (UPI)—Reinforced police units, some armed with shotguns, maintained a cautious guard today while about 250 Negroes staged an orderly voter registration march to the local courthouse.

JACKSON CLARION-LEDGER 2/29/64
PAGE 1

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JOHNSON

Gov. Johnson advised Mississippians not to go to the scene of demonstrations and especially not to travel distances to such scenes.

He said that no good could be done, and that the presence of "visitors" could only obstruct the efforts of local authorities.

"The ideal situation is complete cooperation with law enforcement officials by local citizens," Johnson set forth.

Questioned about reports of Ku Klux Klan activities, Johnson said he is keeping close tab on activities by minorities. He said that he did not put much stock in "cross burnings," saying "anybody, even a child, might burn a cross."

Johnson said that an act passed by the House of Representatives Thursday, applying penalties for printing or distributing literature designed to interfere with free trade "is [illegible] violating but [illegible]

Continued from Page 1

pushed slowly and carefully as "it is easy to make mistakes" in turbulent times.

NO ELABORATION

The governor did not elaborate on his plans to improve state level law enforcement and authority. He said that he would also discuss election law changes and that he would present a plan for bettering the state park system as a tourist attraction.

He predicted that the income tac reduction by the federal government would better the state's financial status, if we would spend our money at home.

"We're spending $427 - million a year outside the state," he said. "If the people spent 56 percent of that amount in the state and it turned over three times, the sales tax would bring in enough additional where it wouldn't be necessary for us to raise taxes a nickel to run the state government."

Johnson said that he is limiting speech - makings in order to stay close to the legislature. He said that most of his program is already in legislative hands and that he is pleased with progress.

He said he will not make appointments until the legislature has nearly finished its work.

[redacted]

Continued From Page 1

bell, who also serves as vote registrar, permitted one Negro at a time to take the voter registration exam while the other two waited in the hall.

Armed deputies also stood on duty in the courthouse, a high-ceilinged structure typical of all old Mississippi county courthouses—even sporting a spittoon in its main hall.

Law enforcement authorities questioned each of the Negroes lined up outside, removing about a dozen who were residents of Madison County. One was Charles Evers, field secretary for the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

Several ministers from the National Council of Churches walked up and down the sidewalks across from the courthouse, acting as observers. Their presence had been announced earlier by COFO.

Leading Newspape
JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI, SA

Canton Negroes Agitate

In Massive Drive For Registration To Become Voters

By DUDLEY LEHEW
Associated Press Writer

CANTON, Miss. (AP)—About 250 Negroes participated Friday in what civil rights leaders called a massive drive for voter registration.

When the drive ended mid-afternoon, four Negroes had taken the literacy test required to qualify as voters. Usually it takes about 30 days before an applicant learns if he passed.

The Rev. Elton B. Cox, a civil rights leader from High Point, N.C., led the exodus by escorting a Negro woman, apparently in her 80's from the courthouse square. Most of those who showed up were elderly. Negro leaders had urged children not to skip school.

Shortly before the voter push broke up, George Raymond of CORE told an impromptu news conference, "today's activities disprove previous statements made by local and state officials that a large assembly of Negroes would cause violence."

Raymond said the drive "showed that Negro people and civil rights organizations are capable of maintaining order."

The drive was spearheaded by the Congress of Racial Equality (CORE). CORE representative David Dennis said "we are trying this mad effort because the people have to do something to combat the tremendous pressure that they have to go against."

When the line approaching the courthouse became too long, authorities directed the overflow flow of prospective voters to form a line parallel to the wrought iron fence surrounding the 110-year-old courthouse.

A city policeman, using a portable loudspeaker system, ordered "every one off the sidewalk—white and colored—(you) will have to move out."

Inside the two-story court-[redacted] Clerk L. E. Camp-

Gov. Johnson Vows To Maintain Order

By CHARLES M. HILLS
Clarion-Ledger Staff Writer

Gov. Paul B. Johnson declared here Friday that he will enforce and maintain law and order in Mississippi "come hell or high water."

The state's chief executive told newsmen at his weekly press conference that he is keeping a close eye on all activities including so - called demonstrations and voter registrations.

However, the governor insisted that at all times he expects the local law enforcement officers to handle their own situations in accordance with their recognized situations at any time.

Johnson revealed that he will go before a joint session of the state legislature Tuesday at 2 p.m., to discuss plans for stepping up measures for keeping law and order.

EXPERIENCE

He declined to discuss such measures "until I have finished my study of the best methods," of facing any emergency.

The governor said that experience of officers, mobility, and scope of responsibility will be taken into consideration. He said that local officials should be depended on to keep situations regarding law and order under close surveillance.

Johnson said that "demonstrations" in Mississippi, Maryland, New York, Chicago and Cincinnati appeared to be coincident with the drive in Washington to put through the so-called civil rights bills.

He spoke out against citizens participating in anti-demonstration activities, declaring that "matters such as these should be left in the hands of law enforcement officers."

"When situations such as these arise, when the agitators make a spectacle of themselves, I'd like to see the people laugh," Johnson said. "I think they can control the situation by ridiculing these who make fools of themselves."

He went on to say that "everyone knows why they are here. They are not recognized in their home areas. They make trips in order to attract public attention.

FOOLS OF THEMSELVES

"A lot of them have done bad things in their [redacted] charged. "A lot of [redacted] drives them to ma[redacted] themselves as agit[redacted] ing they are doing some good in this world."

JACKSON DAILY NEWS 2/29/64 p.5

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LINED UP TO REGISTER AT CANTON

A group of Negroes line up in a single file outside the Madison County courthouse at Canton as they wait to register to vote. Sheriff Jack Cauthen, second from left, assisted by several deputies, allowed the Negroes to enter the courthouse one by one to fill out voter registration forms. No incidents had occurred by early afternoon.—Daily News Photo by Jack Thornell.

'Let Law Handle Agitators'—Paul

By WILLIAM PEART
Daily News Staff Writer

Gov. Paul B. Johnson charged today that racial demonstrations over the nation are designed to give support to the civil rights legislation pending in Congress.

He also told his weekly news conference that law enforcement in Mississippi "will always be up to local authorities.'

"I feel that at this time, particularly," Johnson said, "these mass demonstrations—whether in Maryland, Chicago, Boston or Cincinnati—are designed to influence legislation now before Congress on civil rights.

"When local people in these areas let local law enforcement break down," he continued, "it gives the agitators that much more help in their attempt to pass this vicious legislation."

The chief of state said he is opposed to citizens "taking mat-

He was referring to the amount of tax money the extra spending would bring to the state treasury.

"A lot of people need to buy at home," Johnson added.

The governor noted "the (February) tax take is up some 6.2 per cent over the same period a year ago."

He predicted the federal income tax cut will mean more sales tax dollars for Mississippi.

JACKSON DAILY NEWS 2/28/64 PAGE 1

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LINED UP TO REGISTER AT CANTON

A group of Negroes line up in a single file outside the Madison County courthouse at Canton as they wait to register to vote. Sheriff Jack Cauthen, second from left, assisted by several deputies, allowed the Negroes to enter the courthouse one by one to fill out voter registration forms. No incidents had occurred by early afternoon.—Daily News Photo by Jack Thornell.

Mass Registration Conducted Quietly

Publicized Demonstration Draws Some 200 Negroes

By W. C. SHOEMAKER
Daily News Staff Writer

About 200 Negroes stood in single file on the Madison County Courthouse lawn today carrying out a New York-planned voter registration demonstration.

Negroes followed police instructions on how the demonstration could lawfully be accomplished and there were no incidents.

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The line began forming shortly after 10 a.m. at the 110-year old courthouse on Canton's town square.

First arrivals stood on a walk beneath giant magnolia trees leading to the courthouse door.

As the crowd grew, it spilled into the city street but police with bullhorns warned that loitering on the street would be prohibited. Would - be - voters went onto the courthouse lawn and stood single file inside the iron picket fence which encloses the square.

Most spectators disappeared into buildings.

The demonstration, announced by the Congress of Racial Equality in New York two weeks ago, began about 9:30 a.m. when CORE and Student Non - Violent Coordinating Committee workers hauled six carloads of Negroes the ten blocks from Pleasant Grove Negro Church to the courthouse.

These groups formed the first of the line.

Canton has a population of nearly 10,000, of which about 60 per cent is Negro.

EVERS LEADS GROUP

About 30 minutes later NAACP field secretary Charles Evers of Jackson and Negro minister B. Elton Cox of High Point, N. C. led a single file march of about 150 Negroes from the church toward town.

Cox identified himself as a CORE field worker.

They went one block before police stopped them.

Officers blocked the street and one announced on a bullhorn "We are going to let you go to the courthouse, two at a time at 30-yard intervals, but not in that formation."

Evers and Cox stepped forward and asked for instructions from the police. The officer repeated his earlier statement and told them they could march in groups of two "so you don't block the sidewalk or interfere with traffic."

Evers relayed the instructions to the waiting group and then turned back toward the police and asked "about how far is 30 yards, officer?"

He was told "you make your own judgment."

The group broke into pairs and walked without incident to the courthouse line.

First arrivals found a Negro woman filing application to register when they appeared at the registrar's office.

One elderly Negro man followed her at the application desk before Circuit Clerk Foote Campbell closed the office for lunch.

Some Negroes in the line left when the office closed.

As the crowd stood in line, Madison County officers moved past them asking each if he was a resident of the county and was old enough to vote.

Continued on Page

CANTON LAW

Continued From Page 1

They found no outsiders in the crowd, but removed from the line about 25 children.

A total of about 125 officers, including 75 auxiliary police and several plainclothed highway patrolmen guarded the area.

Sheriffs and deputies from several counties throughout the state were on the scene as observers along with FBI agents and State Sovereignty Commission investigators.

Fifteen church officials sent to Canton by the National Council of Churches were also in the area, but stayed clear of the registration line.

Police had insisted earlier that they expected no trouble unless it wqs started by "outsiders and agitators."

THOMAS BACKS OUT

Norman Thomas, four - time unsuccessful Socialist Party presidential candidate, did not appear in Canton. He announced Thursday night he has withdrawn earlier plans to observe the demonstration.

The National Council of Churches sent 15 observers, CORE said.

They were identified as the Rev. Arthur Thomas of Durham, N. C., a member of the NCC's commission on religion and race; the Rev. Joseph H. Dwinnel of Cincinnati, Ohio; Huber F. Kleeme of New York City, a member of the council of Christian social action of the United Church of Christ; Ora Huston of Elgin, Ill.; Ian McRae of Indianapolis, Ind.; Ed Wright of Cincinnati; Norman Simmons of Hays, Kan.; Joseph W. Atkins Jr., of Wichita, Kan.; Andrew Gutierrez of Wichita, Kan.; Robert J. Stone of New York City, a member of the United Presbyterian commission on religion and race; Frederick C. Maier of New York, member of the board of Christian education of the United Presbyterian Church of U. S. A.; John Sherman of Chicago; George W. Buckner of Chapel Hill, N. C.; and Howard B. Vail of Westfield, N. J., who was identified as an attorney and ruling elder of his denomination.

Persons who apply to vote usually don't know for about 30 days if they passed the registrar's test.

Jackson Daily News 2/29/64 Page 1

Peaceful Response To 'March' Lauded

Mayor Says Proud Of Canton; Negroes Continue Voter Bids

By W. C. SHOEMAKER
Daily News Staff Writer

CANTON, Miss.—Would-be Negro voters promise to return to a line on the Madison County Courthouse lawn today in a bid to apply for registration.

About 250 Negroes lined the Magnolia tree-shaded lawn Friday as a part of what integration workers had promoted as "Freedom Day" in Canton.

At mid-afternoon the line of waiting Negroes had dwindled to less than 50 and leaders of the campaign called the remaining persons away.

The courthouse would be open from 8 a. m. until noon today. There were no incidents and Canton Mayor Stanley Matthews noted that he had "nothing but praise" for white resident of the city and county. Eight of the Negroes who stood in the line actually reached the office of Circuit Clerk Foote Campbell and filed applications to become registered voters.

"Outside agitators called for a demonstration today," Campbell said. "The situation was handled by the police department and the sheriff's office very smoothly. There were no incidents."

The mayor noted that "citizens of Canton and Madison County behaved admirably."

He said he saw no reason "what it shouldn't" continue to operate smoothly if Negroes continued their campaign.

Madison County has 33,000 population 72 per cent Negro.

Plans for Friday's demonstration were announced by the Congress of Racial Equality in New York two weeks ago. A spokesman said hundreds of Negroes would join in a march on the courthouse to apply for voter registration.

About 9 a. m. Friday a crowd of Negroes gathered at the Pleasant Grove church 10 blocks from the courthouse.

Workers from CORE and the Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee hauled several car loads to the courthouse and the line began forming.

About 150 more lined up single file and started a march to the courthouse.

Police stopped them and announced: "We are going to let you go to the courthouse two at a time in 30-yard intervals, but not in that formation."

NAACP Field Secretary Charles Evers of Jackson and E. Elton Cox of High Point, N. C., a CORE worker, broke the group apart and sent them toward town in compliance with police orders.

The crowd overflowed a sidewalk leading across the lawn to the 110-year-old courthouse and officers had them stand single file on the inside of an [illegible] picket fence which surrounds the town square and the courthouse.

BYSTANDERS DISPERSED

Police, with shotguns slung across their backs, used bullhorns to warn that bystanders would not be allowed to crowd the sidewalks.

Deputy sheriffs moved along the lyine asking voter applicants for home addresses.

Several who lived outside Madison County and several who were less than 21 years old, were ordered to leave.

The courthouse closed for an hour at noon. The line remained but many of the persons in it departed.

A Negro woman moved among them passing out sandwiches.

At mid-afternoon Cox went into the courthouse and told Sherift Jack Cauthen "We're finished with them, we've pulled them out."

Cauthen told Cox the Negroes would be welcome to remain until 5 p.m., but the CORE worker called them away.

ONE AT A TIME.

Campbell had taken applicants one at a time.

About 25 county and city officers patrolled the street during the day, reinforced by 18 of Canton's 75 auxiliary policemen.

Several highway patrolmen watched the proceedings.

The FBI and the State Sovereignty Commission also had representatives in town.

About 15 delegates from the National Council of Churches were also on hand as observers. One, the Rev. Norman Simmons of Hayes, Kan., said the community "should have reason to feel proud."

PAGE 10 IS NYT 3/2/64

JACKSON CLARION-LEDGER DAILY NEWS SUN. 3/1/64 p1

Few Negroes Out In Canton's Drive

By DUDLEY LEHEW
Associated Press Writer

CANTON (AP) — The appearance of 20 Negroes here Saturday capped a two-day voter registration drive which passed without incident as armed authorities stood guard.

About 250 Negroes had appeared Friday at the Madison County courthouse as compared to the Saturday turnout, for a registration push.

Helmeted, shotgun armed police used a two-way radio system to keep a precision watch on activities.

As the handful of Negroes arrived Saturday, Deputy Sheriff Billy Noble asked each one "What is your business here," and "Are you a resident of Madison County?"

The Negroes, mostly elderly, replied "To register," and "Yes to "Born and raised here."

The Negroes repeated the Friday procedure — standing silently in a single file line underneath two giant magnolia trees amidst frigid temperatures.

Federal agents, some with cameras, watched the proceedings from across the courthouse streets.

Three Negroes were permitted to enter the courthouse at intervals, while inside two waited while one filled out voter registration tests.

About two persons completed the tests Saturday, making a total of six completing the tests during the two-day affair.

The applicants probably will learn in about 30 days whether they can become a voter.

Circuit Clerk L. F. Campbell, who doubles as vote registrar, aided the applicants in filling out forms. At times, Campbell left the applicant alone in the office.

Auxiliary police stood on guard on various corners, sometimes moving along sidewalks, with their shotguns on their shoulders.

The Friday event lasted

Continued on Page 14A

NEW NEGROES

Continued from Page 1-A

about 5½ hours before the Negroes dispersed, but Saturday ended at noon when Campbell closed his office.

Police, in their efforts to avert the possibility of any kind of incident, used a bullhorn to disperse white and colored onlookers.

The population of Madison County is 32,904, of which 9,262 are white and 23,637 are Negro. Canton, the county seat of government, has a population of 6,220 Negroes.

Some remaining ministers from the National Council of Churches were on hand Saturday to observe the registration drive. Other ministers were present Friday but left town.

Mayor Stanley Matthews had commended the authorities for running the operation "very smoothly."

City officials rolled out an elaborate press relations setup, providing information and transportation.

The Negroes both days met at a local church shortly before meeting at the courthouse.

Miss. Town Mobilizes For Negroes Who Want To Vote

Canton, Miss., police mobilized like a war was at hand. FBI "observers" hurried into the town. Churchmen came from all over the United States just to watch. The state legislature hurriedly passed a bill authorizing riot-trained Jackson policemen to help keep order in Canton should they be called upon. And besides the regular cops in Canton, 75 so-called "auxiliary policemen" were to be on hand to "prevent any violence." Why all the preparedness? Merely because CORE announced a target day when they would lead about 200 Negro citizens to the courthouse so they could register to vote. JET 3/12/64

JACKSON DAILY NEWS 3/3/64 p1

SLOW AT CANTON

'Mass Voter Drive' Gets 12 Applicants

CANTON, Miss. (Special) — A total of 12 Negroes have applied to vote since a registration campaign was kicked off by integration leaders here Friday.

About 10 persons appeared at the Madison County courthouse Monday afternoon and two filed voter applications with registrar Foote Campbell.

About 250 Negroes stood in line Friday on the courthouse lawn and eight filed applications to become registered voters. Fifteen returned to the courthouse Saturday and two applied.

Applications the 12 filed will determine whether they passed tests for a month.

The Congress of Racial Equality and the Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee called for a "Freedom Day" march on the courthouse Friday to open a voter registration campaign. Police prohibited the march and integration leaders sent Negroes to the courthouse one and two at a time.

Citizens On Mules Kick Off CORE's Miss. Vote Drive

Pouring into Canton, Miss., from nearby rural areas on wagons and mules, some 300 determined Negroes kicked off a CORE-sponsored, state-wide voter registration drive as scores of FBI agents watched anxiously. Arriving at the courthouse in two columns, the applicants were met by a police barricade and allowed to enter the building in two's. Only two applicants were completed out of the first 50 voters. CORE spokesmen said the drive will be climaxed by sending delegations of Negro voters to both the Republican and Democratic conventions to demand representation for the state's unfranchised citizens. Only seven were registered in two days.

Herblock of Washington Post

"And, Over Here, The Enemy-People."

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JET 3/19/64

COMMERCIAL APPEAL
3/6/64

U.S. Suit Hits Madison County

Official To Face Quiz On Registration Policies In Voting Drive

JACKSON, Miss., March 5. —(UPI)—A Federal court was asked Thursday to halt alleged discrimination against Negro voter applicants in a mass registration drive in Madison County.

County Registrar L. F. Campbell of Canton was ordered to appear in Federal District Court here Saturday to show cause why a temporary restraining order should not be issued.

The Justice Department cited alleged discrimination since Mr. Campbell took office in 1959, but based its discrimination claims on affidavits taken from Negroes participating in the current voter gistration drive.

The suit was filed on behalf of all Madison County Negroes by United States Atty. Robert E. Hauberg and Justice Department Atty. John Doar.

The complaint said of 10,366 adult Negroes in the county, 152 are registered, while more than 5,000 of the 5,662 adult whites are voters.

The Justice Department said while as many as 200 Negroes at a time have lined up at the registrar's office in the drive, only five were permitted to apply Feb. 28 and two more the next day.

The suit said the registrar would permit only one Negro to take the application at a time, while as many as six white applicants simultaneously took the test.

The department claimed Mr. Campbell previously "has received and processed in excess of 20 applicants in a single day and on one occasion 49 applicants in a single day."

The suit said "The policy and practice of receiving applications from these Negroes one at a time deprives Negroes in Madison County of the right to register to vote without discrimination based on race."

The suit asked the court to order Mr. Campbell to "receive and process applications for registration from at least six applicants simultaneously."

The Justice Department also charged that Negro applicants have been forced to meet more stringent standards, have been discouraged from attempting to register, and have been rejected though qualified.

United States Atty. Gen. Robert F. Kennedy said in Washington the suit was filed only after the Government was unable to resolve the problems through consultations with local officials.

A Negro boycott of white-owned stores began at Canton, the county seat, about eight months ago.

NO TIMES PICAYUNE 3/6/64

SUIT FOLLOWS VOTE CAMPAIGN

Registrar of Madison County Target

(Times-Picayune Capital Bureau)

JACKSON, Miss. — The Justice Department Thursday filed a voter suit against Madison County Voter Registrar L. F. Campbell, seeking a temporary order to speed up processing of Negro voter applicants.

Campbell, the suit charged, had handled only about eight of more than 200 Negroes who took part in a voter drive at Canton last weekend under the gaze of more than 75 heavily armed officers.

Federal District Judge Harold Cox set a hearing Saturday morning on a temporary injunction asked by John Doar, Washington, D. C., Justice Department attorney, seeking to require Campbell to handle at least six applicants at a time.

During the voter drive last weekend, Campbell had allowed Negroes to take the voter test one at a time. Only five or six were processed last Friday and two Saturday, the suit contended.

The Justice Department petition charged that since he has been in office the past five years, Campbell has handled more than 20 voter applicants a day on many occasions and on one day, he had handled 49 applicants.

The suit, which also seeks a permanent injunction against Campbell to end alleged discrimination in registration, charges that only 152 Negroes out of 10,366 of eligible registered in the county, while more than 5,000 of 5,622 adult whites are registered.

The policy of handling only one Negro voter applicant at a time which Campbell followed last weekend "deprives Negroes in Madison County of the right to register to vote without distinctions based on race," the suit said.

In the permanent injunction, the Justice Department asked Judge Cox to order Campbell to refrain from acts that would "delay, prevent, hinder or discourage Negro citizens from applying for and becoming registered voters."

It asked Cox additionally to insure "the fair, equal and nondiscriminatory administration of registration procedures in Madison County."

JACKSON CLARION-LEDGER
3/6/64 PAGE 1

able, he said. Jax CL 3/6/64 P1

Suit Filed In Madison Vote Drive

United Press International

The Justice Department Thursday filed suit to halt alleged voter registration discrimination against Negroes in Madison County, where a registration drive is in progress.

The suit was filed as a class action on behalf of all Negro adults in the county, and named L. F. Campbell, the Madison County Circuit Court clerk and registrar.

SATURDAY

A hearing on a motion for a temporary restraining order was set for Saturday in Federal District Court here.

The suit charged that Campbell has processed Negro applications on a one-at-a-time basis while handling applications of whites on a simultaneous basis. Affidavits filed with the suit said several hundred Negroes stood in line to register last Friday and Saturday but only seven were processed.

The affidavits charged that Campbell has registered as many as 49 whites per day in the past.

OTHER CHARGES

The complaint also charged that Negro applicants have been forced to meet more stringent standards, have been discouraged from attempting to register, have been denied registration and have been rejected though qualified.

Kennedy said the complaint was filed only after the government was unable to resolve the problems through consultations with local officials.

The Justice Department said there are about 10,366 adult Negroes in Madison County, of whom about 152 are registered. More than 5,000 of the 5,622 adult whites in the county are registered.

The Daily News 3/5/64 p. 1

U.S. Seeking Easier Negro Registration

By W. C. SHOEMAKER
Daily News Staff Writer

The U. S. Justice Department moved today to force the Madison County registrar to let Negroes apply to vote six at a time.

Registrar Foote Campbell has been allowing Negro applicants in his office one at a time.

The Justice Department suit, filed today in U. S. District Court in Jackson, asked an order restraining Campbell from having applicants appear one at a time.

Hearing on the request was scheduled Saturday before District Judge Harold Cox in Jackson.

The suit, also brought against the state, asked state attorneys and Campbell to show cause why the registrar should not be rerstrained from applying tighter application procedures to Negroes.

The suit, charged that more than 200 Negroes stood in line at the Canton courthouse last Friday while applications were accepted one at a time.

Four or five Negroes applied to vote Friday, the government contended, and two applied on Saturday.

Attached to the suit was an affidavit by Justice Department Attorney Robert T. Moore in which he claimed that up to 49 persons had applied to vote on one previous day.

Affidavits were also attached from five Canton Negroes who claimed they attempted to register Friday and Saturday. The five were identified as Lessie McClendon Luckett, Charlie Robinson, Marion Robinson, Charlie Scott, and Katie Scott.

The government claimed that more than 5,000 of Madison County's 5,622 eligible white residents are registered to vote while 152 of the 10,366 Negroes are registered.

The government asked Cox to restrain Campbell from any act which deprives Negroes the right to register and to vote, from applying more stringent standards to Negro applicants than those required of whites in the past, from rejecting any Negro who possesses similar qualifications to whites who have registered and to force him to receive Negro applicants on the same basis as whites have been taken.

...later this year.
Jackson Clarion Ledger 3/5/64

Arrest Nine In Canton On Boycott

Supt. Allen Tells Parents Their Children Suffering

CANTON (AP) — Madison county authorities arrested nine Civil Rights workers Wednesday after Negro school children cut classes at an elementary school.

D. M. Allen, superintendent of the Cameron Street elementary school, immediately wrote open letters to parents of the Negroes warning against such action.

Allen said "only your child and your teachers have suffered," as a result of the boycott.

The identities of the Council of Federated Organization workers were not immediately available.

Sources told the Associated Press the workers, mostly Negro, were charged with "intimidating school children" for their part in calling for the boycott.

Canton has been involved in a massive Civil Rights drive, sponsored by COFO, and the Congress of Racial Equality. The most recent drive has been in voter restrictration.

COFO charged Wednesday the police raided the "Freedom House," base for organizational activities, and picked up the nine workers.

A reporter in Canton said Allen was threatened for not going along with the boycott.

Allen reminded the Negroes the state spent about $750,000 during September for Negro schools in the area.

...i Edited – For Mississippians

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Race Agitators Lashed In U.S. Court Hearing

Cox Firmly Opposes Vote Discrimination

By BILL SIMPSON
Clarion-Ledger Staff Writer

U. S. Dist. Judge Harold Cox said here Saturday he opposes discrimination in any form against Negro voter appliants, but lashed out at leaders of mass racial demonstrations.

Cox made the statements during a hearing in which the Justice Department asked the court to order a speed up in handling voter applicants in Madison County, where a Negro voter drive has been under way for over a week.

Justice Dept. Attorney John Doar also asked Cox for a preliminary injunction against Madison county voter registrar L. F. Campbell prohibiting him from discriminating against Negro applicants.

Cox said he was willing to order Campbell "to treat Negroes the same as he treats whites. But I doubt if it would be in order for this court to tell a voter registrar how to run his office."

TO SUBMIT BRIEFS

He told attorneys for both sides to submit briefs on the case by next Wednesday, but suggested that Campbell and Doar try to work out the problem without court action.

The judge told Doar it was "difficult to determine whether Negroes taking part in voter drives were more interested in citizenship or in publicity.

"When the publicity dies down the lines seem to dwindle."

He leveled a blast at the Congress of Racial Equality (CORE), which he called a "bunch of [illegible] agitators."

"I don't know who is telling these Negroes they can push people around just by getting into a line and acting like a bunch of chimpanzees," he said, "but that is not the law in this district, and they will never get any sympathy from this court like that."

Cox said he felt the problem of voter registration could be worked out "if drive leaders would get together with the registrar and come up with some reasonable plan to get those people to his office to register."

'DELIBERATELY' PLANNED

He expressed agreement with Mississippi Atty. Gen. Joe Patterson, who said, "this is just another deliberately planned and created unsatisfactory condition. . .provoked to predicate a complaint in this court."

Patterson said, "agitation by outsiders is at the bottom of this whole thing."

"It appears that these people went into a church and were whipped into a frenzy by a leather-lunged preacher," Cox said, "then they gathered in the streets like a massive dark cloud stretching for blocks.

"They shouldn't have been surprised when the registrar couldn't serve all of them right away."

Cox said it appeared that most of the demonstrators were "just grandstanding. They ought to be in the movies instead of being registered to vote."

VOTE EFFORT OKEH

He said it was not wrong for Negroes to organize voter efforts but that "they are going about it the wrong way. There

Continued [illegible] Page 11-A

JUDGE COX IN

Continued from Page 1A

should be some semblance of realism in their efforts. They should realize they can't bombard a small office like that and expect immediate service."

The judge suggested that Negroes who are "undoubtedly qualified should be placed at the front of the line. Put the less intelligent ones to the rear so they won't slow up the process for everyone."

Cox said it might work if the applicants would go to the registrar in small numbers. "The others could stay at the church and sing and chant while awaiting their turns," he said.

Canton attorney G. B. Herring Sr., representing Campbell said he had made similar suggestions to Doar.

"But he can't follow my recommendations," Herring said, "because he knows if the pressure is taken off the Negroes just won't be interested in registering to vote."

"That just is not true," Doar replied. He said organized voter drives were proper in Madison county because of "evident discrimination against Negro applicants in the past."

Doar said Campbell had been allowing only one applicant at a time to fill out forms since the drive started Feb. 28.

"This is just another form of discrimination," he said, "I think that any person who wants to register shoud be allowed to do so in a reasonable length of time."

In answer to a question by Cox, Doar said he felt Campbell should make arrangements to handle all applicants who show up at his office.

Cox agreed with Doar that "something should be donet to speed up applications in view of coming elections." But said that the organized drive was possibly slowing up Negro registration rather than speeding it.

that even a [illegible] the car

Judge Cox Rapped In U.S. Court Case

NEW ORLEANS, La. (AP)—Civil rights attorneys asked the U. S. Circuit Court of Appeals Saturday to halt a federal judge in Jackson, Miss., from trying certain racial cases because the judge "has evidenced a prejudice. . . so pervasive as to render him incapable of administering fair and impartial justice" to Negroes.

The action was filed here in behalf of a Negro plaintiff who has a pending suit which seeks to desegregate churches in Jackson.

The motion said the court should "give no weight to the findings of fact" by U. S. Dist. Judge Harold Cox.

To support rulings by Cox in certain civil rights suits, the petition said, "would violate the most elementary requirements of due process of law."

NEW YORKER

The motion here was filed by William M. Kunstler, a New York attorney.

Kunstler attached an article from the New York Times March 9 issue as supporting evidence for his request which quoted Cox as referring to a group of Negro vote applicants as "a bunch of niggers on a voter drive."

The Times article was reporting on a hearing where the

Continued on Page 14A

JUDGE COX

Continued from Page 1-A

Justice Department sought an order speeding up voter registration at Madison County, Miss.

In the vote case, Cox issued no ruling and ordered opposing attorneys to submit supporting briefs.

JACKSON CHURCHES

The motion filed here was related to a suit seeking to desegregate Jackson churches. One of the plaintiffs in the church suit was Bette Poole, a Negro student at racially-mixed Tougaloo College near Jackson.

The petition said the conduct of Judge Cox indicates a pervasive prejudice against these appellants and the class of Negro citizens of the State of Mississippi.

The petition said it could prove "by expert testimony that the judge in open court as reported in the public press reflects a pervasive prejudice against Negro citizens and a belief in the inferiority of the Negro race rendering him incapable of administering fair and equal justice in matters involving the Negro and the enforcement of the equal protection clause of the Constitution of the United States.

RESTRAINING ORDER

The petition specifically asked for a temporary restraining order by the district court in Jackson to desegregate churches.

It wanted the temporary order "pending a new hearing on the motion for temporary injunction before an impartial federal district judge specially assigned to hear the matter.

Cox had remanded the church suit back to the city court saying the lower courts had jurisdiction.

In addition to the Poole woman, other plaintiffs in the church suit were Ida Hannah and Julie Zuagg, students at Tougaloo. Miss Zuagg is white.

by THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A civil rights attorney said Saturday action will be filed this week asking the 5th U. S. Court in New Orleans to take judicial steps aimed at ousting a federal judge here from sitting in racial cases.

William Kunstler of New York said the appellate court will be asked to issue a show cause directing U. S. Dist. Judge Harold Cox to show cause why he should not sit in racial suits.

Kunstler said the petition will be filed in behalf of Aaron Henry, state president of the National Association for the Advancment of Colored People David Dennis, Congress of Racial Equality; Robert Moses, Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee; and the Rev. Edwin King, a white chaplain at Tougaloo College near here.

DON'T KNOW

The attorney siad "I don't know whether it will work or not."

He said it was the "first time in American history, that I know of, that a court was asked to judicially disqualify a federal judge in a certain type of case."

Kunstler's remarks came after a petition asked the New Orleans appellate court to halt Cox from trying certain civil rights cases because he "has evidenced a prejudice."

Kunstler mailed a petition to the New Orleans court in behalf of a Negro plaintiff asking the appellate court "give no weight to the findings" of Cox.

The petition charged Cox was "incapable of administering fair and equal justice in matters involving the negro and the enforcement of the equal protection clause" of the U. S. Constitution.

COX QUOTED

The petition showed a New York Times article quoting Cox as making references to "a bunch of niggers" involved in a voter registration suit.

Kunstler told the Associated Press Saturday the action to be filed this week was being prepared in New York.

He said there are only two ways to remove a judge from trying a case: to have the judge recuse himself "or you can go to a congressman, as I understand it, (and he) will introduce an impeachment resolution."

Kunstler said there was no precedent which would serve as a guide for the request to be put before the appellate court.

He said he doesn't know "if it has legal backing or not."

Since the 5th Circuit Court has "supervisor powers over all district judges in the 5th circuit," Kunstler said, he felt it could issue its own order affecting one of its judges.

IT'S RELATIVE FOR THIS WOMAN

FAR ROCKAWAY, N. Y. (AP) — It was quite a day for Mrs. Jose Contes, 41, who became a mother and a grandmother in the space of a few hours. She and her daughter, Mrs. Jose Alfonso, 24, both gave birth to sons at Peninsula General Hospital here.

Mrs. Contes' 10th child, David, weighed 6 pounds, Mrs. Alfonso's third baby, Joseph, arrived. His weight was 7 pounds, 13 ounces.

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JAx DN 3/18/64

IN MADISON CASE

Judge Draws Rules For Registration

By W. G. SHOEMAKER
Daily News Staff Writer

U. S. District Judge Harold Cox has outlined a plan which he said should end tension in a Negro Madison County voter registration campaign.

Cox ordered Madison Registrar L. F. Campbell to arrange to process prospective voters four at a time and told leaders of the registration drive to send no more than 25 Negroes to the courthouse at a time.

His order was in answer to a U. S. Justice Department suit charging Campbell was discriminating against Negroes by accepting only one applicant at a time.

The government sought to force Cox to hire additional personnel to handle six persons at a time.

In an opinion and order issued late Monday which he said was designed to "clear the atmosphere," Cox warned Negroes that the object of their Madison County drive must be "that of effective application to register and not a publicity seeking escapade for the aggrandizement of others."

Campbell should not be forced to employ extra personnel since he paid only $150 monthly for serving as registrar, Cox said.

The court ordered Campbell to install three portable voting booths in the courthouse corridor outside his office and pick a county peace office to patrol the area.

The circuit clerk was told to supervise one application at a time in his office and have the lawmen control application of three persons in the corridor at the same time.

In addition, Cox ordered Negro leaders to see that an adequate number of applicants await their turns outside the courthouse, but warned that no more than 25 will be allowed to wait at any one time.

He ordered that a peace officer should see that the "more alert applicants" are processed first to expedite the procedure.

Applicants who present themselves at the court would be under "exclusive supervision" of the officer, Cox ordered.

The procedure will remain in effect indefinitely, Cox ruled, except during regular terms of court.

The judge charged that leaders of the voter drive have made no effort to work out a plan to expedite registration and relieve tension in Canton.

He ruled that the government did not prove that Campbell "indulged in any discrimination" and ordered his plan into effect to accomplish the fullest "measure of justice and right."

More than 250 Negroes stood in line on the Canton courthouse lawn Feb. 28 while Campbell accepted applications one at a time. About 75 lined up on the lawn last Friday.

NO, S-I 3/18/64

Judge's Ouster Aim

WASHINGTON (AP)—Members of Congress have been asked by an official of the NAACP to consider the removal of a Mississippi federal judge.

Remarks made by U.S. Dist. Judge Harold Cox of Jackson, Miss., in a recent voter registration case in Mississippi "make it plain that he is unfit to be a judge in an American court," said NAACP executive secretary Roy Wilkins.

JAx DN 3/18/64 pl

Lawmakers Asked To Fire Judge

WASHINGTON (AP)—Members of Congress have been asked by an official of the NAACP to consider the removal of a Mississippi federal judge.

Remarks made by U.S. Dist Judge Harold Cox of Jackson, Miss., in a recent voter registration case in Mississippi "make it plain that he is unfit to be a judge in an American court," said NAACP executive secretary Roy Wilkins.

"We think that the honorable course would be for Judge Cox to resign, but we can hardly anticipate such action on his part; the alternative, therefore, is his removal," the NAACP official wrote.

Wilkins sent to members of congress, along with his letter, copies of a story appearing in The New York Times March 9 about a March 8 hearing before Cox in a case in which the Justice Department sought a speed up in registration of Negro voters in Madison County, Miss.

'NIGGER' REFERENCE

The story quoted Cox as referring at one point, to the Negro applicants as "a bunch of niggers."

Wilkins contended that "ever since he was appointed to the federal bench, Judge Cox has given evidence of his distaste

Continued on Page 10A

ORx CLARION LEDGER 3/19/64 E

NAACP Chief Raps Judge; John Bell Gives Answer

WASHINGTON (AP) — In a letter to members of Congress, an official of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People has suggested the resignation or removal of U.S. Dist. Judge Harold Cox of Mississippi.

Roy Wilkins, executive secretary of the NAACP, wrote in the letter that remarks made by Cox in a recent voter registration case in Mississippi "make it plain that he is unfit to be a judge in an American court."

Rep. John Bell Williams, D-Miss., whose district includes Jackson, Miss., commented that the "tirade against Judge Cox was prompted by the fact that the NAACP has no law on its side—only emotion and political pressure.

"They have gotten accustomed to having puppets on the appellate courts and on the Supreme Court."

He added that "such an eminent jurist as Judge Cox needs no defense from me or anyone else. The suggestion of impeachment should not receive any consideration by Congress."

OBSERVER MINISTERS TO CANTON 2-26-64

1. Rev. Arthur Thomas Durham, North Carolina
   Commission on Religion and Race, National Council of Churches

2. Rev. Joseph H. Dwinnell Cincinnati, Ohio
   Robertson Memorial Presbyterian Church

3. Huber F. Klemme New York City, New York
   Council of Christian Social Action United Church of Christ

4. Ora Huston Elgin, Illinois

5. Ian McCrae Indianapolis, Indiana

6. A. Garrett Day, Jr. Indianapolis, Indiana

7. Ed Wright Cincinnati, Ohio
   West Cincinnati St. Barnabas Church

8. Norman Simmons Hays, Kansas

9. Joseph W. Atkins, Jr. Wichita, Kansas

10. Andrew Gutierrez Wichita, Kansas

11. Robert J. Stone New York City, New York
    United Presbyterian Commission on Religion and Race

12. Frederick C. Maier New York City, New York
    Board of Christian Education United Presbyterian Churchof USA

13. John Sherman Chicago, Illinois

14. George W. Buckner Chapel Hill, North Carolina

15. Howard B. Vail Westfield, New Jersey denomination,
    He is an attorney and a ruling elder of ~~XXX~~ his ~~church~~, not
    technically a minister

The ministers are under the auspices of the National Council of Churches to act as observers in Canton rather than to participate.

KENT THOMPSON
NCC Photographer

43

February 4, 1964

Robert F. Kennedy
Attorney General of the United States
Ju stice Department
Washington 25, D.C.

Dear Mr. Kennedy:

Enclosed are two signed reports from young men who were beaten by police last night in Canton, Mississippi, after leaving a voter registration meeting in the Pleasant Green Church. The reports are in their own handwriting.

We have wired you repeatedly of police brutality and other forms of intimidation which have become almost daily occurrences in Canton. You must intervene and protect the Negro population if they are to be able to register and vote without molestation.

Very truly yours,

Edward S. Hollander
Field Secretary

February 4, 1964

Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy

Madison County, Canton, Mississippi Monday night February 3, 1964 10:00 PM Willie Galloway and Arthur Harris were beaten by police officers while leaving a voter registration meeting. Investigation is needed. Urgent.

George Raymond
field worker, Congress of
Racial Equality

Feb 3 19

arthur Harris
Jim Harris Father
minnie Harris
minnie Harris
we Come out Church 10 o'clock
and Police Come to the truck and
and we ellie G allaway his on and and
Jones told and ile he hand reglirain
c and my name and then he ask
open the my car taken me dail and
me ask Belt me and ask me the Lady
name also, told me ile I Weald
A.H. on only one this would I killed
me also ask me the White man name
But I dont Know it they G ille
me a Jille of I ant to any marby mill
put the Gun in my Jail step on
my Feat this time the police cut
hair out ile my head told me ile
told me hat they did to me they
me add I killed me they told to Let
it soak in they make me get ii
Police ask to Set in the Car, and ah
this police drive the truck he told
me not to dail talk me not to
come Back to the Meting police

[redacted] ark to [redacted]
their police grand the truck he told
me not to dail talk me not to
come back to the melting pot
ih dide he will put me in
Lake with a wate an my
neck,

Siginature arther Harris

a.k. [redacted].

the statement is true to a.k. [redacted]
the best ah mus a.k. Kavanaugh
arthur Harris

witness Harp Raymond Jr
Lillian Hamid

Feb. 3, 1964
Route 3, Box 71
Milton, Minn.

The story of the meeting that Au
and started on the night last summer.
we were going for beer and decided to
drive out and see the truck up. Then the
police came to us and ask for identification
and had us come out and show it. So they
left, then came back and started to ques
us. They found my wallet. Then they
told me I was lieing about my name
and identification. So they told us we
were under arest. They carried us to
the police station and question us about
the meeting. We told them
they said we were lieing. So they began
to beat me and the head, and promised to
do worse to me if I told anyone about
the meeting. They fast. They promised to
kill me further if I came back to work the
next day. The man the owner of the man
that he was working for sent us on his horse
So they told us not to come to the mee
anymore if we wanted to keep good per
Mr. [illegible].

do. They told me not to come to the... any more. If so it wouldent be good for...

My Name
Willie M. Galloway Jr.
My father — Willie M. Galloway Sr.
My Mother — Lucille Galloway.
Witness — George Raymond Jr
— Lillian Harris

This Statement is true to the best of my knowledge, and it is in my hand writing.

Willie M. Galloway Jr.

Affidavit dated Feb. 17

Henry Lee Chinn Saturday Feb. 15, 1964

changing tire on friend's car went home to 325 Ownes St. Canton c. 6:30 pm felt tires were loose on own car (?) and went to ~~Red~~ Lion gas station operated by George Sims after picking up several people

as was leaving the station saw policeman John Chance follow him, checked speed and was going between 10 and 15 mph. Chance stopped him and asked to see driver's license. He did not have them because he had misplaced them. Chance asked (he doesn't remember just what queston) did he know ~~it~~ that he had been speeding or did he know what the speed limit was. Asked if he could find his driver's license and said no and was then told that he was under arrest and was taken to the jail.

after in the jail took him inside and asked him something about the arrest. Then anotherpoliceman came in, doesn't know his name 5'7" about 180 and between 27 and 32 years old. This one asked ~~him~~ what they had him for. Chance replied no drivers license and speeding. (The girl who had been with him at the time of ar rest went home). The unidentified officer called him a "big, lard-ass son of a bitch" and then picked up a police club and began to beat him on the head. He can't remember how many times he was hit. Was dressed in plain clothes. Then Chance hit him with his open hand, can't remember how may times. Unidentified man said that he lied before on him (?) and began to hit him some more with the club on the head. Hit 3-4 times and stopped and said he could call Bob Kennedy and some other things about Kennedy tht he doesn't remember. Then began to hit him on and off with open hands on and off and then Chance hit him on the other side with open hands, they continued this for a while and then stopped. sometimes had been hitting him with fist. Unidentified officer said "You remember when you and that group of niggers wqs following me when I was minding my own business." HLC said nothing and he said "You followed me out to where I turned off and you didn't think I saw you." Athenhe began to him him in the face with his open hand and fist and then Chance came up and began

hitting him on both shoulders with a police club at the same time the other officer was hitting him in the face. This went on for 2-3 minutes and they they began to talk to him some more. After a few minutes one of the officers began hitting in stomach with stick and other hitting him in the face. Unknown officer told him to stand up beside the wall so he could take my picture and put it all over Mississippi. Camera was out of order and one officer said "We'll let Charlie Snodgrass take his picture." Then unknown officer left the room and other officer began questionning about his age, the girl he had been with, whether she was in civil rights and how long he had been in civil rights. Said that he didn't know about the girl but that he had been helping an wering the phone and relate ihformation. Was told he was lying and then asked him the the plans for the movement in Canton were. Told he was lying when he said he didn't know. Told he was lying when he said he didn't know where father was.Asked if he thought the police were crazy and said no sir. Was asked more about his father's whereabouts and then told him his father was in Hattiesburg. Asked if his father was getting checks and how much and replied tht his father didn't tell him any of his business. Asked how fast he could get out of town. Said he was planning to leave because he couldn't find a job. Policeman then asked didn't he know that he wasn't going to find a job and answered "Yes sir."

Then policeman told him that everything he had said was a lie. Judge Sander came in the office andpicked up a boke and wrote something and said something to another white person who came in with him and left. Then Charlie Snodgrass came in the office and asked something about the nickname the police have given him Chinn. I don't remember what it was. Chance said he was going to let Snodgrass talk with him. Snodgrass questioned for general information and said it would be easier if he told the other officer what they wanted to know. Then they left him alone in the office, told him to put all his things on the desk and looked thru them and questoned him about the place that he works. After that they put him in a cell.

February 21, 1964

Dear Mr Dennis:

Attached are Newspaper stories about Carole Merritt

I thought you would like to read them.

Since this has happened many people have been added to the list of "freedom fighters." —

May you all be successful in your many trials.

Sincerely,

M. Merritt

Post Times - 2/4/64

$1000 Fine and 6 Months

Local Rights Leader Jailed in Mississippi

Carol Merritt, 23, of Cincinnati, a Negro civil rights and aid worker in Canton, Miss., since November, has been convicted in Canton Mayor's Court on charges of disturbing the peace and libel.

Miss Merritt was fined $500 on each count and sentenced to two concurrent six-month jail terms by Canton Mayor L. S. Matthews.

She and eight other defendants — all members of the Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee— were arrested in Canton last week. Canton Police Chief Dan Thompson would not discuss the circumstances of their arrest.

CARSIE HALL, a Jackson, Miss., lawyer defending Miss Merritt, says he will appeal the case.

He told The Post and Times-Star that Mayor Matthews set her appeal bond at $500 on each charge, but refused to accept a cash bond. He required posting of a property bond.

Mayor Matthews refused flatly to comment on the appeal bond matter or on any other aspect of the case. He would not even say whether he had tried Miss Merritt.

HALL SAYS the libel charge involves a handbill, allegedly printed and distributed by the SNCC, in which no person is named.

He says the disturbing-the-peace charge was not supported by evidence and was unfounded.

Miss Merritt, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Earl Merritt, of 3305 Milton court, was graduated in 1958 from Walnut Hills High School and in 1962 from Vassar College.

In 1957, Miss Merritt— then a senior at Walnut Hills—won a $1000 college scholarship from Pogue's and Westinghouse for her contest essay entitled, "Why I Have Faith in the Shape of the World Tomorrow."

At Vassar, she was an honor student.

CAROL MERRITT

Fight On To Free Cincinnati Girl

Civil rights leaders promised an all-out fight Wednesday to free a Cincinnati girl convicted this week in a Mississippi court.

William Hansen, field secretary of the Student Nonviolent Coordination Committee, Atlanta, said his organization is asking the Justice Department to free Carol Merritt, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Earl Merritt, 3305 Milton Ct. She is a Negro.

Miss Merritt, a graduate of Walnut Hills High School and Vassar College, was sentenced to one year in jail and fined $1000 after she was convicted by the Canton, Miss., mayor of a minor and "publishing libel."

In Washington, the Federal Bureau of Investigation was reported investigating the arrests of Miss Merritt and 14 other civil rights workers in Canton. The FBI was asked by the Justice Department to determine if the arrests were made for violation of local laws or if they constituted harassment of interference with legitimate efforts to encourage voter registration.

Mr. Merritt, a clerk at the Post Office annex, said his 23-year-old daughter joined the student movement last summer after a meeting in Bloomington, Ind.

He said he worried about his daughter but was sure things would work out "for the best eventually." He did not plan to go to Mississippi, he said.

Post-Times 2/6/64

ENQUIRER

2/7/64

PRICE 10 CENTS—HOME DELIVERED 42c A WEEK

Cincinnatian Held For Integration Try

Niceties Nil, But Jail Has Phone

Mississippi jails may be lacking in some niceties of life — but they certainly have long telephone cords.

The Enquirer learned this Thursday when a reporter successfully placed a long-distance call, person to person, to Miss Carole Merritt, Cincinnati civil rights worker, in the Madison County Jail, Canton, Miss. She is serving a year in jail for her integration efforts.

"They just handed the phone through the bars in my cell and told me 'it was for me'," the surprised Miss Merritt told The Enquirer. "Nobody is watching or monitoring the calls apparently."

Miss Merritt and the reporter talked for 10 minutes before she politely said "I must terminate the call" and hung up.

During the call she talked freely about her jail treatment, her trial last Monday and the events leading up to her arrest January 24. The Justice Department reported Wednesday it was investigating Miss Merritt's arrest and conviction.

"I AM BEING treated well here in the county jail," she said, reporting she had been there since the trial. "I guess the jail comes up to the standards here. The food is not very appetizing but there are three meals a day. There were only two in the city jail."

She said she had not been mistreated but would not answer when asked if she had seen others mistreated.

"My cell is on the first floor of the jail and is right next to a large dayroom for the men," she said. "They keep my cell locked up all the time. I'm the only woman on the jail's first floor. There are two other women on the second floor."

She said her lawyer was attempting to secure bond for her release pending an appeal.

Carole Merritt

. . . treated well

"But you must get a property owner in Mississippi to sign your bond," she said. "And that's the problem now. But we're trying to get an insurance company to sign a surety bond for us. I'm hopeful of getting out soon."

SHE SAID she was sure a higher court would throw out the charges of contributing to the delinquency of a minor and disturbing the peace of which she was found guilty by Canton Mayor L. S. Matthews.

"I am entirely innocent of these charges," she told The Enquirer. "They said I had contributed to the delinquency of a Miss Robertson, who had been charged with publishing criminal libel. It had something to do with a handbill which was supposed to have defamed the character of a certain person. But the girl said she didn't pass out any of the handbills."

Miss Merritt said the arrest of herself and 14 other young persons represented pressure by Mississippi authorities against civil rights groups.

"We were being effective with a selective buying campaign," she said. "It was 90% effective against certain merchants and they didn't like it. Madison County is 70% Negro. And pressure was building up."

The 23-year-old Miss Merritt said she was participating in the selective buying campaign although she planned later to help set up a community center for Negroes.

"I'M GOING to go right back to the work when I get out," she said, firmly. "Of course, I'm a little worried but I'm sure they will get me out. And I'm sure everything will come out all right eventually."

Miss Merritt's sentence and stay in jail obviously hadn't dulled her sense of humor.

"I'm probably the only Vassar graduate ever locked up in Mississippi," she said, giggling slightly.

Miss Merritt graduated from Vassar College in 1962 and Walnut Hills High School in 1958. Her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Earl Merritt, live at 3305 Milton Ct.

February 8, 1964

SUGGESTIONS FOR HELPING CAROLE MERRITT

THE SITUATION:

Miss Carole Merritt a Cincinnati negro has been working since November '63 as a Field Secretary for the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) in Canton, Mississippi. She had been tutoring negroes and helping with a voter registration drive among the negroes of Canton.

On January 24th, 1964 she was inside the SNCC office in Canton when she was arrested and charged with contributing to the delinquency of a minor. Carole was charged with getting this girl to distribute leaflets urging negroes to register to vote. Carole has said that she had not known this girl.

On February 3rd, Carole was tried. The charge had been changed to disturbing the peace and libel. According to her attorney, the disturbing the peace charge was not backed up by evidence in the trial. However she was convicted on both counts and sentenced to 6 months in jail on each, the sentences to run concurrently and fined $1,000. Her attorney says he will appeal but that her appeal bond has been set at $1,000 which must be a property bond.

Carole is an exceptional person. As a child she was selected as a delegate to the Children's International Village in France and as a teenager she was a junior counselor at another C.I.S.V. Village. She won a scholarship to Vassar from which she graduated cum laude in 1962. She had participated in Operations Crossroads one summer and had won in 1957 a $1,000 college scholarship from Pogue's and Westinghouse for her essay entitled "Why I Have Faith in the Shape of the World Tomorrow".

THE REMEDY:

The best thing to do now seems to be to wire or write to any or all of the following men and urge them to help secure a full investigation of conditions in Canton by the Department of Justice. Mention that you are especially interested in Carole Merritts case and that she was arrested because she was working on a voter registration drive. Her civil rights have thus been violated. The members of SNCC who are in touch with Canton say that there has been severe harassment of voter registration efforts and economic intimidation of negroes working on the drive.

Suggest that the Department of Justice do everything possible to obtain her release. Even though considerable news coverage has been obtained in Cincinnati for Carole, it is important to keep on working for her until she is actually released.

Hon. Robert F. Kennedy, Attorney General
Washington, D.C.
Dear Mr. Kennedy:

Hon. Burke Marshall
Assst. Atty. General Civil Rights Division
Dear Mr. Marshall:

Hon. Frank J. Lausche
Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, D. C.
Dear Senator Lausche:

Hon. Stephen M. Young
Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, D. C.
Dear Senator Young:

Hon. Robert Taft, Jr., Hon. Donald D. Clancy (2nd. dist.) Hon. Carl W. Rich (1st)
Address Congressmen at House of Representatives Office Bldg., Washington and begin letters
Dear Mr. Taft, etc. For further information call Marion Resor 561-8835

file with other letters

February 16, 1965

Mr. Richard Haley
CORE Southern Regional Office
2209 Dryades Street
New Orleans, Louisiana

Mr. Haley,

In answer to your letter of February 10th., I will try to answer the questions you posed. First, both Dave Dennis and George Raymond Jr. talked with me about leasing or buying my building in the early part of 1964 and later on in that year. There were no terms decided on with regard to leasing but Dave Dennis might have a more accurate account of these details. To the best of my knowledge there are no copies available of any agreements. As I recall no written agreements were drawn up.

I did receive some rent payments from CORE (Dave Dennis) and Mr. Dennis would know the amount. Any more information should be obtained from either George Raymond Jr. or Dave Dennis.

I appreciate your concern in this matter. It is very important to me to get my building repaired as soon as possible. Thank you.

Sincerely,

C. O. Chin

Mr. C.O. Chin
838 Lutz
Canton, Miss

cc: Dave Dennis
Richard Jewett
George Wiley

Canton

So. Oth.

February 10, 1965

Mr. C.O. Chinn
c/o Mr. George Raymond
838 Lutz Street
Canton, Mississippi

Dear C.O.,

I have talked with CORE national officers on how to reach an agreement between you and CORE about your building. As I understand it:

1. There was a verbal agreement between you and a COFO representative, early in 1964, that the building would be available for COFO use.
2. It was to be paid for by CORE , since it is in the 4th District.
3. Staff people began to clear out the inside of the building in preparation for repairs.
4. The city of Canton refused to issue a building permit for repairs.
5. Activity on the building then stopped, and nothing has been done there since.
6. No payments on the building, rental or otherwise, have been made by CORE for many months.
7. You would like to restore the building to usefulness, and estimate it would cost three thousand dollars.
8. You would like for CORE to pay the above amount.

CORE national office would like to explore the following points, after which we should be ready to reach an agreement with you.

1. Who first negotiated with you, and what terms were decided on?
2. Have there been any negotiations since, was any part of these in writing, and is there a copy available?
3. How much have you received, when, and who holds the receipts?
4. What person(s) should be consulted for further information?

CORE is certainly aware of the valuable services you have

rendered to the movement and to the growth of a free spirit in Canton. It is our intention to act in this matter in a way to be a credit to the movement and the part you have played in it.

Sincerely,

Richard Haley
CORE Southern Office
2209 Dryades Street
New Orleans, Louisiana

cc: David Dennis
Richard Jewett
George Wiley

STATEMENT MADE BY GEORGE RAYMOND, CANTON PROJECT LEADER
ON FREEDOM DAY, FEBRUARY 28, 1964, AT PLEASANT GREEN CHURCH

My name is George Raymond presently field representztive of the Congress of Racial Equality. I am working in Mississippi, in Cangon Mississippi as director of the ~~project~~ present progra that is going on working under the Council of Federated Organizations. Voter registration activities in Canton Mississippi began in June, 1963. Since that time local citizens who attempted to register To vote have been fired from their jobs, ~~been~~ threatened and have suffered economic reprisials. Voter registration workers have been beaten or placed in jail on various charges. Freedom day is the beginningof an intensive campaign to get Negroes ~~to~~ registered to vote. Today's activities show that in a county where Negroes comprise 70 per cent of the population there is a desire on the part of Negroes to become registered voters, And that under the present conditions Negroes cannot exercise their constitutional right. Out of approximately 400 Negro people who went to the court house at 9 o'clock this morning the report is thatonly two people have filledout application forms by one this afternoon. Today's activities disprove previous statements made by state and local officials that a large assembly of Negroes would create violence. Today's activities show that the Negro people themselves and civil rights organizations are capable of maintaining ~~law and~~ order. We call upon local, state, and federal officials to execute voter registration in Madison County. Negro citizens want to exercise their constitutional right and this only. Our facts which will be reported to the proper authorities will be substantiated by observers from the National Council of Churches, the FBI, the Justice Department and other related groups witnessing racial discrimination in voter registration in Madison County. ###

1 EH

February 4, 1964 Report on Defendants in Canton, Miss.

The following is a list of defendants at the trial in Canton Monday, February 3, 1964.

J JAMES COLLIER 38 NCC Jan 23 plead not guilty to altering inside of building w/o a permit; found guilty, fined $100 and 15 days

PROB BND Jan 23
J C.O. CHINN 42 both plead not guilty to intimidating Easter Branch; found builty, fined $500 and 6 months in county prison
J THEODIS HEWITT NCC Jan 23 25

INTIM OFFICER?

(Carsie Hall also says they found guilty and given the same sentence for publishing libel but neither Claude Weaver nor I,who both took notes in court, have any record of that.)

J CAROLE MERRITT 23 NCC Jan 24 plead not guilty to both charges, contributing to the delinquincy of a minor and publishing libel; found guilty on both counts and sentenced on each count to $500 and 6 months in county prison

J JOE LEE WATTS 30 PROB BND Jan 23 plead nolo contendere to both counts, interfering with a business and publishing libel; found guilty on both counts and sentenced on each to $500 and 6 months

J NCC RICHARD JEWITT 30 Jan 23
PROP BND PATRICIA MEYERS 18 Jan 23
NCC MARTHA JAMES JONES 21 Jan 23
NCC WILLIAM VEAL 18 Jan 23
NCC SYLVESTER LEE PALMER
(20 arrested originally.)

All plead nolo contendere to both charges of publishing libel and disturbing the peace, all found guilty on both counts, sentenced on each count to $500 and 6 months

NCC ALMA BOSLEY 21 Jan. 23 plead not guilty to contributing to the delinquincy of a minor, plead nolo contendere to publishing libel and disturbing the pleade, found guilty on all 3 counts, sentenced on each count to $500 and 6 months

All the former charges of distributing the leaflets without a permit have been dropped, it was announced in court. As far as we or Carsie Hall know this is not stated in writing anywhere. The trial Monday was not in a court of record.

BAIL - The bail for each person is $500 per charge, property or surety.

All the juveniles have been released (last week). They have a hearing(tria in juvenile court Wednesday, February 5, 1964, 10 AM.

The arresting officer for James Collier was W.R. Cook. NO

We realize that this does not account for everyone originally involved. They are all who were tried Monday who were represented by Hall. We will try to compile a report on the status of the others.

Ed Hollander

CONFIDENTIAL...

TO THE NEGRO PEOPLE OF MADISON COUNTY:

Mr. C.O. Chinn and Theodis Hewitt have been put in jail, but the SELECTIVE BUYING CAMPAIGN IS STILL ON, and is stronger and more determined than ever.

A young Negro woman has allowed herself to be used by some white influence and has allowed herself to betray one of her own race who dared to take a stand for what is right. May God have mercy on her and on others like her who would put their foot on a black brother's neck in order to keep the white man slinging his billy clubs over our heads, pointing his pistols at our noses, and most of all, GROWING FAT ON OUR MONEY.

We are the ones who are poor, who do not have money. Some of us are starving. We are the ones who live in shacks. (In fact, the house that young Negro woman betrayer lives in is indeed a shack.)

As you have noticed, the Canton Police Department had found it necessary to escort Mr. C.O. Chinn daily. The police have celebrated Mr. Chinn as an important leader, when his only crime was not posing as a leader, but rather, joinning in a movement which is fighting for the rights and dignity of every Negro citizen in Madison County.

Mr. Chinn and Mr. Hewitt are now in jail because of a misguided, ignorant, treacherous Negro Betrayer. The police force thinks that the Negro community is stupid. They think that we will stop this fight because these two men are in jail. But the imprisonment of these two men has alarmed and angered the Negro community. But their imprisonment has led to more support from the Negro community to our Selective Buying Campaign. The Negroes of Canton are becoming more informed about our campaign and our fight for human rights. Negroes are realizing more and more that the white man will do anything to keep the Negro poor and ignorant and scared so that he (the white man) can stay fat and powerful.

N E G R O E S:

The fight is on. Let us fight to the finish. Stay away from those 21 stores on the list. Do not buy Mosby's Milk, Hart's Bread, and Barq's Drinks. Pay your poll tax by February 1. Register to Vote.

FREEDOM NOW!

Now ask yourselves one question and try to come up with an honest answer-- Who actually got hurt by this day's absence from school? The answer is "Nobody, absolutely nobody except your boys and girls, who should be trying to get an education, and the teachers of your schools." For every thirty students in average daily attendance during the year, the state provides for each school one teacher. When there are many students absent, naturally, the average daily attendance will be lowered and the teacher supply furnished by the state will be less. There is no compulsory school law in Mississippi, so there are none who can actually make children attend school except those who should be most interested in their welfare -- namely, their parents. Schools will go right on operating tomorrow, and tomorrow, and tomorrow, and those who wish to learn may attend and profit, and those who wish to stay at home and pass up educational opportunities may so do. No one is going to try to force your children to attend school -- that responsibility is yours. To those who wish to go to school no harm is going to be done, for the principals and teachers will see that all students are properly looked after.

In the past few years, about three-fourths of a million dollars has been spent for buildings and equipment. The schools have come a tremendously long way from the little 1, 2, and 3-teacher schools to the buildings which we have today -- some of the most adequate buildings in the state. Great improvements have been made in every area of school activity and will continue to be made with your support.

There is something else that all parents should know, and that is, if students once report to school they shall not leave the campus of their own accord without a written permit from their principal. This is a written policy established by the School Board, and applies to all students, negro and white. To fail to abide by this school board policy will bring immediate suspension. Once your children report to school, they are under the jurisdiction of your teachers and principals. When they are out of school, they are under your jurisdiction.

To those parents who saw fit to see that your children were in school Monday, we commend you, to those parents who didn't know whether your children were in school, we say, "You should have known," and to those who wilfully kept them out, we say, "Your child has suffered, and your teachers as well." I sincerely believe that most of you want your children in school, and that is my reason for getting out this letter of explanation. For any further information, you may call the principal of the Attendance Centers where your children are enrolled

Sincerely,

D. M. Allen

D. M. Allen, Superintendent
Canton Public Schools

To be signed by parents and returned to homeroom teacher by student who was absent Monday, March 2.

My child was absent from school because _____.

SIGNED _____
Parent's signature

Canton, Mississippi
March 1, 1964

Mr / Dean Allen Public
XuperintendentofCanton Schools
and Mr/ James Jones, Jr/ Principal of Rogers High School
LS Matthews Mayor of Cqnton

Dear Sirs:

We the students of Rogers High are highly dissatsfied with the conditions

at our school/
1/ Books in poor repair and not enough of them
2/ Not enough chemicals and equipment for the chemistry laborqtory
3/ Typewriters in poor condition and not enough of them (bus courses)
4/ Home economics laboratory poorly equipped
5/ No physical education for high school students
6~ No foreign languages taught
7 Insufficient first aid equipment
8 Insufficient library
9 Inadequat shop facilities
10 Overcrowded classes - too large
11 Overcorwded and broken busses
12 Building in poor repair
13 No lockers for students

This is the main reason why we the students at Rogers High deciced to stay at home today, Monday, March 2nd, to ask for improvement in the conditons at our school/

We would like a representqtive from the B oard of Education to come to Rogers High Fridqy, March 6 to tell the students what the Board is going to do aboug these conditions/

Thank you for your attention

Yours truly

THE STUDENTS AT ROGERS HIGH

Mississippi: Structure of the Movement, Present Operations, and Prospectus for this summer.

What is COFO?

The Mississippi Council of Federated Organizations is a federation of all the national civil rights organizations active in Mississippi, local political and action groups and some fraternal and social organizations. Anyone active under any of these groupings is entitled to attend COFO conventions and participate in policy-making decisions of the organization. The COFO staff, consisting of anyone working full time with any civil rights organization in Mississippi, implements the decisions of the COFO conventions, and prepares recommendations for the consideration of the COFO convention. Below the level of the statewide COFO convention, there are district organizations corresponding to the five Congressional districts. These district organizations are presently in the planning stages for practical purposes. The staff, however, is broken down into Congressional districts, with five district directors; this organization structure actually functions. The state organization has four standing committees: Welfare and Relief, Political Action, Finance and Federal Programs. The district organizations have, or will have, similar standing committees. Dr. Aaron E. Henry of Clarksdale, State President of the NAACP, is President of the Council of Federated Organizations. Robert Moses, Field Secretary and Mississippi Project Director for SNCC, is the Program Director, who supervises the Mississippi staff and is elected by it. David Dennis, Mississippi Field Secretary for CORE, is Assistant Program Director, and is similarly elected.

How is COFO financed?

The expenses for COFO's projects are paid by direct grants from national civil rights groups as these groups volunteer to contribute. This accounts for nearly all of COFO's income. Expenses of staff workers are paid by the national civil rights groups also, the arrangements varying with the group. At present, the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee supports COFO projects in the First, Second, Third, and Fifth Congressional Districts as well as the state COFO office in Jackson. The Congress of Racial Equality assumes responsibility, on a direct-to-the-project basis, for the Fourth Congressional District. COFO does not solicit funds for itself, by agreement with the civil rights organizations which support it, for it is felt that it would thus compete with the supporting groups. Negligible amounts are sent directly to COFO, however, and these moneys are not credited to any national civil rights organization. Usually such small donations are earmarked for particular projects, such as the book drive or welfare relief (Food for Freedom) funds, and are dispensed according to the direction of the donor.

What is COFO's relationship to National Civil Rights Organizations?

COFO represents the effort of all civil rights workers in Mississippi to coordinate their efforts in one direction for maximum efficiency. Staff members, however, are paid by separate organizations and do not lose the organizational identity or their affiliation with the national office of whatever organization they work for. SNCC and CORE workers work together on joint "COFO" projects, and thus must make all plans

[1964, March 31]

/

THE POLICE TOWN

CANTON

On March 31, 1964 a fire took place on Mrs. Lula Wright's property at Farmhaven, Mississippi. The fire spreaded and accidentally burned someone else's property.

On the afternoon of June 11, 1964 around 5:00, two constables went to the home of Mrs. Wright to arrest her on a charge concerning the fire. When the officers told her she was under arrest, she asked why and was told to shut her mouth.

After being told to shut her mouth, she made the following statement. "I don't mind going to jail but I'll like to know what I am charged.

The constable then struck Mrs. Wright across the head with a night stick which left her unconscious with a hole in her head, she had to have six stitches as a result of the hitting.

Mrs. Wright has had an artificial skull, commonly known as a steel plate in her head for some time. At the present time she is in the King Daughter's Hospital and she is also in the custody of the police force of Canton, Mississippi.

Her present occupation is a Domestic Worker for Bobby Gordon.

Witnesses

Milton Picket

Diey Picket

Kissiella Stokes

Welton Stokes

THE POLICE TOWN

CANTON

On the morning of June 12, 1964 at about 12:05 A M, a bomb was thrown at the home of Mrs. Alberta Robinson at 315 Second Avenue in Canton, Mississippi. The bomb fell about 10 feet away from the house so there was no serious damages done, it left a mark in the ground about 5 inches deep and about 12 inches wide, it had the shape of a salad bowl. The only damages were that some of the window panes were broken on the front and sides of the house.

About 3 minutes later the same incident occured at the Pleasant Green Church of Christ at 301 Walnut Street. Damages included front glasses broken at the church and a hole was about 20 feet away from the window where the glass was broken.

We the Negro citizens of Canton, Mississippi and Madison County, Mississippi are tired of Police brutality being forced upon the Negro Citizens of this County and we demand that our Federal, State and Local Government that we pay taxes to will give us protection against this brutality such as the bombing, the shooting, the continuance beating and threats to Local Negro Citizens in Madison County. We believe that the officials are well aware of the things that are happening here.

URGENT AND IMMEDIATE ATTENTION

Rev. J. F. McRee
Mr. Wilbur Robinson
Madison County Movement

Mr. George Raymond Jr.
Congress of Racially Equality

(R.P. IS ROGER PHOENIX WHO IS WITH OPERATION FREEDOM)

[1964, March 21]

Southern office

Canton Arrest

Following is a report of several incidents leading to the arrest and conviction of a Madison County Negro. Similar episodes have been reported to members of the Canton C.O.F.O. staff over a period of months. Physical violence and economic reprisals (in the form of evictions, job loss, cut welfare checks, and various other pressures) are very real threats to Negroes who attempt to register to vote.

Civil rights workers know that any time they may be arrested and jailed on false charges by local authorities.

The following report is an indication of the climate in which Canton's Negro population lives.

—R.P.

"Floyd (19) and Sam (20) Bouldin were about to turn on Highway 51. State patrolman Billy O'Neill drove by and turned in behind them. Constable Bruno Holley was coming along the highway also. We turned in front of him, but he was at least 200 yards behind us on the highway.

"As we were driving down the highway, he passed us. Mr. O'Neill and Constable Holley both turned off at Lee's One Stop, a small grocery store. We stopped at the store too. It was purely coincidence that all three of us stopped there. Mr. Holley had given no indication to us that we should stop. Floyd got out and went into the store. Sam was on his way into the store when Mr. Holley beckoned to him.

"Mr. Holley said to Sam that we almost forced him off the road. 'Like to have had me in a jam.' Sam asked when did we 'like to get you in a jam'. He said, 'Just a moment ago up the road.' Sam asked how, and he said, 'When you pulled on the road.' Holley said, 'I don't care about you killing yourself, but you might have killed me.' By that time Holley had gotten out of his car and gotten into the car of the patrolman and sped off. We don't know why he got into the car except that sometimes we see them riding around together.

"We went home. Our sister Benny Lou wanted Floyd to take her to the store. She got in the car...Arthur and Ernest asked if they could go with Bennie Lou and Floyd. Floyd told Bennie Lou that I was going by Mr. Holley's home to tell him that we meant no harm.

"Floyd had worked for Mr. Holley for three years. Floyd mowed his lawn. Mr. Holley had told Floyd that whenever he had anything he wanted to talk over with Holley to feel free to do so.

We drove in Mr. Holley's driveway. He was just coming in then, driving his own car, and pulled up behind us. He got out of his car and came around where Floyd was. Floyd got out of the car not expecting anything to happen. Floyd said, 'We almost got you in a jam down the highway." We didn't mean any harm." (Floyd still didn't really think he had gotten Holley in a jam, but he wanted everyone in the neighborhood to be happy.) Holly said, 'Did you come down here to argue with me?' Floyd said, 'No sir, we didn't come to argue, we merely came to apologize because we thought we had gotten you in a jam.' Holley said, 'Get out of my yard.' As we were getting in the car Holley said, 'You see, I was going 80 miles per hour.' Arthur said to Floyd, 'What is the speed limit on Highway 51?' Holley said to Arthur, 'You God damned son of a bitch.' He was walking toward Arthur as he said this and after he said it he kicked at Arthur, but he missed. Floyd got between the two and said, 'We didn't come for that.' Thay both got in and Floyd cranked up the car. The motor went dead while they were trying to back up.

"As we started to crank it up the second time Holley said, 'None of you sons of bitches going anywhere. You're under arrest.' He ran around... to his car and got the pistol from on the seat. Then he pointed the gun at us and said, 'Get out of the car.' We got out of the car. He walked up to Arthur and raised his gun and said, 'I ought to hit you.' Arthur raised up his hands to protect his face. Benny Lou said, 'Don't hit him.' Then he shot the pistol at the side of Arthur's feet. Then he stepped back, pointed the pistol straight at Arthur and said, 'I ought to kill you. I ought to put a bullet right through you.' Benny Lou said, 'Don't shoot him.' During all this Floyd was trying to tell Holley that they hadn't come to argue, but Holley wouldn't listen. Then Holley went to his car and got a rifle out of the trunk. Two or three times he tried to hit Arthur on the side of the head with the rifle, but each time Arthur put his hands and caught the butt before it hit his head. Arthur doesn't remember what he was saying as Holley was trying to hit him with the rifle, but [illegible] Arthur thinks that he paniced because he had never been arrested before.

"Then Holley went to the car and got a pair of handcuffs. He reached out to hand the handcuffs to Arthur and told him to put them on. Arthur put his hands behind his back, thus refusing to take the handcuffs. Mr. Holley put his rifle back in the trunk, but did not close the lid. Then he stuck the pistol in his belt. He walked up to Arthur with the handcuffs, but Arthur put his hands behind his back and backed up a little. Then Holley reached in and pulled out his pistol. He held it for a moment, but just then Mr. Murray Cox Jr. was driving by in a truck.

"Holley called to Mr. Cox. Holley told Cox to come help get them in the car. Cox parked his truck and came up and got the rifle. He held the rifle in Bennie Lou's face. Bruno then came and told Arthur to put his hands in the handcuffs, which Arthur did. Arthur's hands were handcuffed behind his back. Then Holley went to his trunk again and got out what looked like a small

baseball bat about eighteen inches long. As Arthur went to get in Holley's car, Holley hit him in the back of the head with the small bat. After they had all gotten in the car, Holley turned around in the driver's seat, with the stick, and said, 'That black son of a bitch, he must think he's bad or something.' Then he hit Arthur again on the side of the jaw. Arthur raised up his knee then to catch the next lick. Holley didn't hit Arthur any more.

"Then they started driving up Highway 55. Holley called patrolman Billy O'Neill. Holley told Billy O'Neill that he was 'almost mobbed in my own yard by three damned black-assed niggers.' We don't remember exactly what was said after that. When Holley finished talking to O'Neill, he turned around again to Arthur and said, 'You must think you're bad or something. Me and you can't stay in this county. One of us has got to get out and I'm planning on staying.' Then they drove on to the county jail.

"When they got to the jail and had gotten out of the car, Holley said something to O'Neill, who was there, and then hit Arthur in the temple. Arthur was walking away from Holley trying to avoid the blows, but Holley followed him out into the street and around the car hitting Arthur. Then he got the pistol and said, 'Go ahead and run, you black-assed son of a bitch. I want to kill you anyway.'

"It was just becoming dark as they had arrived in town. Holley pointed with his pistol toward a light and told Arthur to get over there. We all went over under the light. We went in and were searched. He didn't find anything on Floyd or Ernest, but found a pocket knife on Arthur. He put Floyd and Ernest in the jail, but kept Arthur out in the hall. He said something to the sheriff or one of the other officers and then hit Arthur in the back. Arthur had retreated into the living room of the jailor which leads off the hall. Holley said, 'Come back out of there. That is that man's house. He is liable to shoot you in the back.' Arthur then walked back toward Holley. Holley said, 'If you ever go past the road by my house, I'll shoot you on sight. I'll kill you.' Then he took the handcuffs off of Arthur and after doing this said, 'You wanted to grab me.' And then hit Arthur on the arms as he held them up to protect his head. He hit Arthur several times. Then O'Neill came and searched Arthur again. Then the sheriff said, 'If you had come by my house in my yard, I'd have killed you. My advice to Mr. Holley is to kill you if you come to his house again.' Then they put Arthur in the jail.

"Later on they asked Floyd if he wanted to make a phone call. They said if it were long distance, Floyd would have to pay for it himself. Floyd didn't have any money, so he couldn't call out to anyone near his home. Ernest gave him the number of the Freedom house, but Bruno said that he wouldn't let him call there. Holley said, 'Floyd, I'm surprised at you. I didn't know you was getting mixed up with any mess like this.' Floyd asked, 'Would you mind telling us what we are charged on?' Holley said, 'disturbing the peace and resisting arrest.' Then he took the phone back and shut the door.

"Nothing particularly important happened between then and the trial.

"At the trial before Justice of the Peace Hawkins, Holley took the stand first, after we were all sworn in together. The trial was in Justice Hawkins' garage. They sat around in a semicircle with some white people on one side, the three boys on the other side, their father, Mr. Bouldin, back in a corner, and the judge sat at one end next to a witness seat.

"The D.A. told Holley to tell what happened on March 4. Holley related the event where the boys had allegedly almost run him off the road. He related that about one half hour later, the three boys had come to his house and jumped him. Each boy had an arm. ('He had an arm, and he had an arm, and he had an arm.') He didn't tell the judge how he got loose. Next he told that Murray Cox had come down the road and he had asked him to help. He said that he hadn't had any trouble out of Ernest and Floyd, just trouble out of Arthur. He then said that after Murray Cox had gotten there, he wrestled around with Arthur to get the handcuffs on. He said that after he got them in the car, Arthur had tried to kick him over the seat. Holley told them that he had hit Arthur at the county jail, because he had reached over to try and get a bottle.

"Arthur and Floyd testified and told the story as they have given it here. The judge asked the D.A. what he recommended. Holley and the D.A. went outside for a few moments and then came back. The judge hadn't pronounced anything yet. The D.A. recommended the sentences. The judge said in response to 'Five months and five hundred dollars', 'You sure you don't want to make that six months?' "The fellow at the jail later said that he had seen the book and Arthur got a year in jail and $682."

— from an interview with John Newman, COFO staff worker March 21, 1964

Canton weekly report, March 16 thru March 22, 1964
CANTON, MISSISSIPPI

This was a week of transition. After the relatively intense preparations leading up to Freedom Day, this past week has been very quiet. Many staff changes were made, and a revised program has not yet been started.

Chronological outline

Monday, March 16, 1964 Two different staff meetings occupied almost the entire day. The morning meeting was a workshop in which there was extensive discussion of assignments, housing, and transportation as well as work content.
The afternoon meeting with Dave Dennis was an official breakdown of the new staff assignments and job contents.
Mass meeting at Pleasant Green Church in the evening. About 75 in attendance.

Tuesday, March 17, 1964 FBI started appearing in Canton as part of its massive investigation of Madison County.
Staff did nothing but wait for assignments and transportation during the day.
Mass meetings in the evening at Pleasant Green and Magdalene.

Wednesday, March 18, 1964 Evening mass meetings at New True Light and St. John.

Thursday, March 19, 1964 Carsie Hall here to get C.O. Chinn and the others out of jail. C.O. Chinn is released.
Mass meetings at Milton Grove, Magdalene, Mt. Olive, and Mt. Zion.

Friday, March 20, 1964 Scott Smith and the Bouldin boys get out of jail.
Valleyview people appear on TV in Jackson.
Meetings between Hattiesburg and Canton students in the afternoon and evening.

Saturday, March 21, 1964 Student meeting is a workshop followed by canvassing.
Madison County residents go to Greenwood to assist in the Greenwood plans for Freedom Day.

Sunday, March 22, 1964 COFO meeting in Jackson attended by large number of Madison County residents.
Cheney and McNair move to Leake County.

Staff work

Staff was largely inactive this week. Originally many of the staff had hoped to move to other areas fairly soon, but inefficient management of the available transportation prevented an orderly transfer. In addition there was some reluctance on the part of staff to accept transfer elsewhere in the state.

The staff that was supposed to remain in Madison County didn't get moving either in the general turmoil.

COPY

nton weekly report

Justice Department and FBI
The justice department and the FBI have been very active in Madison County this week. We know that over ten agents have been investigating all arrest cases, many cases of economic intimidation, and all cases of police harrassment that have occurred within the past year. The reasons for this investigation are not known.

The Justice Department immediately began to determine whether or not registrar Campbell was complying with Judge Cox's temporary restraining order. (See below for contents of the restraining order.)

The Justice Department continues to press us for full details of the names of people who go down daily to register.

Judge Cox's temporary restraining order
On Monday, March 16 Judge Cox issued a temporary restraining order. The order tells the registrar to be capable of registering up to fifty people a day and that he make provision for taking four applicants at a time. The order also restricts the number of persons who can line up at the courthouse at any one time to twenty-five.

The order came as a surprise; no one had expected any sort of restraining order. Some afe of the opinion that Judge Cox issued the order under pressure of the suit filed against him in New Orleans, questioning his ability to handle racial questions.

The staff reacted strongly negatively to the provision limiting the number of people standing in front of the courthouse. No policy about official reaction to the order has been arrived at.

Student activities
The visit of students from Hattiesburg to Canton over the weekend was a valuable addition to the Canton student program. Both groups felt that the interchange was very worthwhile. The most valuable time seemed to be the time spent canvassing together.

Greenwood trip
The visit of some Madison County people to Greenwood was also felt to be very valuable. The people helped to canvass and attended a mass meeting. Both this and the student exchange will be the first of many such exchanges, it is hoped.

Selective buying campaign
The movement finally began to face up to some of the problems that will have to be met in order to continue the selective buying campaign. This new state law making it a crminal offense to publish or distribute any boycott literature is hamstrining the operation. In the meantime there is a feeling that people are starting to slack off and return to the stores. There is a feeling that the law is unconstitutional and should be tested, but there has been an unwillingness to send people to jail for it. Limited legal help and bond resources will mean a cutdown on other programs if we do an effective job of keeping the boycott going. At this point the responsibility for furthering the program is left in the hands of local citizens.

COPY

Canton weekly report, March 16 thru March 22, 1964

Harrassments

C.O. Chinn and Scott Smith were both threatened in jail. In the dark of night someone came up to their cells and told them they were going to be killed. Nothing came of the threat.
The sheriff worked hard at trying to convince them that the movement was deserting them and would not help get them out of jail.

Five new cases of people being laid off work have been reported. They seem to be related to movement activities.

A local resident of Madison was threatened for his life for wearing a FREEDOM NOW pin. The same man was told by a man to whom he had owed a bill that he would be shot if he did pay the bill and shot if he didn't.

A local high school girl was told not to return to a store and not to let any of her family return to the store if she took part in any movement activities.

Registration estimates

Date	Number attempted	Number-successful
Monday, March 16	-	
Tuesday	-	
Wednesday	13	
Thursday	10	
Friday	10	
Saturday, March 21	5	

- means unknown

The staff working in Canton this week was George Raymond, Richard Jewett, John Newman, Andrew Lee Green, Joe Lee Watts, Marcellus Byrd, Theodies Hewitt.

* * * * * * * * * *

COPY

Canton weekly report, March 9 thru March 15, 1964
CANTON, MISSISSIPPI

This was a week largely devoted to preparations for the second Freedom Day on Friday, March 13. The week closed with staff attending a COFO staff meeting in Jackson on Saturday; many community people joined the staff in attending the state-wide COFO Convention in Jackson on Sunday.

Chronological outline

Monday, March 9, 1964 Many staff persons in Jackson talking with FBI.
Attorney Robt. Moore of Justice Dept. discusses possible meeting of Negro leaders with registrar Campbell.
Negro leaders meet and decide not to meet with registrar Campbell.
Mass meeting at Pleasant Green Church in the evening.
Other mass meetings in the rural areas.

Tuesday, March 10, 1964 Morning workshop for staff.
Staff split--some to rural areas, some to Canton.
Ministers meet and approve sending letter of complaint to city official
Workshops and mass meetings in the evening.

Wednesday, March 11, 1964 Staff workshop in early morning.
Staff split up for work as on Tuesday.
Workshops and mass meetings in the evening.

Thursday, March 12, 1964 Some staff work as on previous days.
Workshops and mass meetings in the evening.

Friday, March 13, 1964 Freedom Day

Saturday, March 14, 1964 Heavy rain curtails registration activities.
Staff meeting in Jackson.

Sunday, March 15, 1964 COFO Convention in Jackson.

Staff work

Staff workshops were valuable. They served to organize work in the morning so that people were actively busy during the rest of the day. The workshops also improved understanding and communication between staff members. Some staff members were able to express feelings they had been holding back on before.

A big problem for some staff members in working the rural areas had been transportation. By organizing more efficiently at the morning workshops the available cars were better deployed, and more staff could actually visit their areas.

In the city of Canton teams of two were sent out to start on an organization of a block captain system. The main emphasis in canvassing in Canton was to ask people to set up voter registration workshops in their homes in the evening. These people were then to be used as block captains. The scheme of asking people to specifically do something like hold meetings was generally felt to be more successful than just talking about general voting. The evening workshops were very successful in terms of bringing interested people together in groups and helping one another.

COPY

Canton weekly report, March 9 thru March 15, 1964

Suggested interview between Negro leaders and registrar
Judge Cox had suggested that an interview between the registrar and the Negro leaders would be a good idea. In a discussion Sunday afternoon with Robt. Moore of the Justice Dept. a decision was reached by the staff that the meeting should take place on Negro ground or not at all.

On Monday Mr. Moore came to say that Mr. Guy Rogers of the State Attorney General's office, allegedly the most moderate of the Mississippi state attorneys, wished to join the meeting.

On Monday afternoon Negro leaders meeting with some staff persons decided that such a meeting with the registrar would probably lose more than it would gain. The general history of such meetings in Mississippi seems to be that they result in non-enfoceable agreements between local parties.

Freedom Day, March 13
Late Thursday night we received a phone call from Robt. Moore of the Justice Dept. He informed us that the registrar, Mr. Campbell, would be in Jackson at least all morning long on Friday to testify at a hearing. Several phone calls to state staff leaders produced no particular plan for Friday.

Friday morning people came in from the rural areas as they had before on February 28. Many failed to reach Canton for lack of rides. The police had the courthouse blocked off and were not letting people line up. As many as possible were directed to the Pleasant Green Church by movement workers, but many rural people returned to their homes.

All strange white people in town were asked to come to the sheriff's office for questioning. There they were asked to fully identify themselves and were told they would not be welcome in the Negro section of town. The visiting ministers from the National Council of Churches never ventured out of the center of town all day as a result of this.

At the church the people assembled, sang songs, and heard speeches until late morning. Then a group went down to the courthouse and stood outside, saying they would wait for Mr. Campbell's return. When no one was arrested, the rest of the people in the church went down and joined them. Altogether over 100 people stood in line to register.

At one point during the day the sheriff came to the Freedom House and asked what was going to go on during the remainder of the day.

The people themselves made the decisions during the day. They decided on all the moves and carried out the program themselves. The staff was just there as support but did not actually force any program on the people. The people in Canton seem to be grasping what they are doing and why.

The registrar returned about 1 p.m.

A series of threatening phone calls were received by the office in the evening and by Mrs. Robinson, a local worker.

COPY

Canton weekly report, March 9 thru 15, 1964

Harrassments

C.O. Chinn and Scott Smith remained in jail all week. During the early part of the week the sheriff was not in his office and supposedly could not be reached, although he was seen elsewhere in the county. A lwyer from the Voter Education Project, a Mr. John Due, came in on Friday, March 13. The sheriff told him that he (the sheriff) was not going to let Mr. Chinn and Mr. Smith out that day because he was determined that they should not take part in the demonstration that day. There was a brief discussion with the staff about the further legal possibilities.

At least five people are known to have lost their jobs on account of taking part in at least one of the two Freedom Days.

We have heard that oil distributing companies are taking tanks away from farmers who participate in movement activities. We have no specific statements in our records to this effect as yet. We know that there are cases of gas pump removals here in Canton. We are considering the possibility of national pressures on the oil companies concerned.

Registration estimates

Date	Number attempted	Number successful
Monday, March 9	15	?
Tuesday	10	?
Wednesday	8	?
Thursday	7	?
Friday	125	?
Saturday, March 14	2	?

The number of successful applicants is not known because the registrar is not telling the applicants how well they are doing when they take the test.

The registrar was taking up to three applicants at a time during most of the week.

The staff working this week in Canton was George Raymond, Matt Suarez, Richard Jewett, John Newman, Andrew Lee Green, Landy McNair, Joe Lee Watts, Marcellus Byrd, Theodies Hewitt, Lenora Thurmond, James Collier, James Cheney. Volunteer workers were Maggie Smith, Sylvester Palmer, Doug Smith, Preston Ponder.

* * * * * * *

COPY

From Friday Evening, Feb 28 (Freedom Day)
Thru Sunday, March 8, 1964
Field Report

March 9, 1964
Edward S. Hollander
CORE Field Secretary

CANTON, MISSISSIPPI

On the evening of Freedom Day (Friday, February 28) Milton Esco, 17 of Canton, was arrested outside the Freedom Houseat 7:15 PM. By being around the Freedom House he had, apparently, violated a juvenile court order directing him not to be involved in civil rights activities. Esco had been arrested on Jan. 23 for violating ~~xxxxxxxx xxxxxxxx~~ an ordinance hastily passed by the city on Jan. 21 requiring a permit to distribute leaflets. Unlike his first arrest when he was not held in jail, this time he was kept in the county jail all week until his juvenile court hearing on Friday, March 6. The staff in Canton thinks he is out but no one has gotten the details of what happened at the hearing. Also, no one has yet verified reports that he was roughed up in jail the night he was arrested.

On the evening of Freedom Day there was a mass meeting of over 200 at Asbury Methodist Church on Cameron Street.

On Saturday, Feb. 29, about 50 people stood in line at the courthouse to register; only two were admitted to take the test. On Saturdays the courthouse closes at noon. During the afternoon a police car cruised through the Negro areas (don't know about the white areas) announcing over a loudspeaker that Canton Mayor L. Stanley Matthews had called a 10 PM curfew for all citizens and that anyone on the streets after that time would be picked up for questioning. During the week leading up to Freedom Day the state legislature passed abill, among others that seemed related to the Canton situation, authorizing municipalities to restrict the movement of any and all citizens to protect the public safety. It is not known whether the Mayor was acting under the new statute. The curfew has continued through the present (Sunday, March 8, this being written March 9). On Friday, March 6, George Raymond, CORE Task Force worker, called the police station and was told that the curfew was on indefinitely. In its first nine days there are no known arrests for violations.

On Sunday, March 1, between 7:30 and 8:00 PM a young man phoned the Freedom House and said in a slow, almost sing-song voice, "in about an hour we're going to throw a bomb up there." Lenora Thurmond, CORE Task Force worker, who took the call acknowledged the message with something like "Oh yeah" and the caller hung up.

On Monday, March 2, the students at Rogers Junior-Senior High School staged a boycott. Monday's attendance figures for Canton Negro schools, as given by D.M. Allen, Superintendent of Canton Public Schools, were: 2,625 absent and 915 present. At the Rogers school 1,396 were absent and ~~915~~ 316 present, these figures obtained by James Anderson, a student there, who called the school. The students, who organized the boycott almost completely by themselves, gave 13 reasons for it.

1. Books in poor repair and not enough of them
2. Not enough chemicals and equipment for the chemistry laboratory
3. Typewriters in poor condition and not enough of them
4. Home economics laboratory poorly equipped
5. No physical education for high school students
6. No foreign languages taught

7. Insufficient first aid equipment
8. Insufficient library
9. Inadequate shop facilities
10. Overcrowded and broken busses
11. Overcrowded classes
12. Building in poor repair
13. No lockers for students

During the boycott about 115 students partidipated in a Freedom School held at the Pleasant Green Holiness Church. In the morning they discussed nonviolence, what was wrong with their school and why they were participating in the boycott. After lunch they organized themselves, set up committees and discussed plans for the future. Nothing has come of their request to meet with a representative of the Board of Education on Friday, March 6.

On Tuesday, March 3, all the students who were absent were given letters to take home to their parents, addressed to "Negro School Patrons of the Canton Schools," it was signed by D.M. Allen. There was a form on the bottom of the letter for parents to explain why their children were absent on Monday. Students unable to provide excused absences would receive zeroes for their work, the letter admonished.

On Monday, March 2, Sheriff Jack S. Cauthen stopped James Collier, SNCC field worker, two white ministers and two other field workers from canvassing in the sawmill quarters. With the Sheriff were about a dozeh other men, mostly in pickup trucks, one of whom claimed to be the owner of the land who said he wouldn't let the canvassers on his property. Sheriff Cauthen also told Collier that he "had heard all about" him and that up to now he had been protecting him but now that Collier was playing with dynamite (apparently canvassing with white ministers in Negro areas) he would have to leave town. Cauthen told Collier that something would have happened to him long ago were it not for the protection he had received.

Tuesday about 10 AM the Sheriff stopped Collier as he was going up the steps to the courthouse grounds, leading some people to register. Cauthen told Collier that apparently he hadn't gotten the message the previous day but that he had really meant it. He gave Collier 30 seconds to get off the steps and told him not to come back again. Later in the day Collier talked with city attorney Robert Goza about the possible lifting of the curfew. After that Cauthen told Collier that if it were lifted, he'd see that it was put back on, adding something to the effect that he thought Collier might try something like that.

On Tuesday evening about 7:30 PM Collier was stopped by about 6 white men in two pickup trucks (one red, one blue and white) while he was walking on Hickory Street with Joe Lee Watts, Marcellus Byrd and Henry Lee Chinn. They told him that there were people in the community who would rather kill him than Medgar Evers.

On Tuesday a Negro teacher, Tom Summers was arrested for driving with a revoked license (which is true). He paid his fine and was released on Wednesday.

On Tuesday night there was a mass meeting on the Pleasant Green Church of about 80 people.

At about noon on Monday, March 2, George Raymond was arrested for driving a faulty car (bad brakes). Raymond says that the owner of the car is a mechanic and that he says there was nothing wrong with the brakes. He was released from the city jail on Tuesday, about 12:30 PM after paying a $16 fine and $2 jail costs. In the jail Sheriff Jack Cauthen told Raymond to shave his beard off or he would do it for him. George did it himself.

On Tuesday, March 3, about noon the owner of the car and Matt Suarez, CORE Task Force worker, went to pick up the car which was in the custody of Campbell's Wrecker Service. They went first to his house where the car was parked, but Campbell (Charles E.) was having lunch and told them to go to his place of business. They went there about 1:30 and paid $30.00. They went back to Campbell's house, got the car keys from his wife and got into the car which was still outside his house. They discovered that the brakes had been removed and that a hole had been punched in the muffler. They had driven about two blocks when stopped by police and given a ticket for improper brakes. Suarez explained that they had turned the motor off before the police had come close enough to have heard the faulty muffler.

On Monday night there was a mass meeting of about 140 people at the Pleasant Green Church.

On Wednesday morning, March 4, at least several hundred students were turned away from Rogers High School because they didn't have their absence excuse slips for Monday. It is also reported that on Wednesday morning James Johes, Jr. principal of Rogers, made a complaint to police as a result of a discussion he had with Scott Smith (identified below).

About 10:30 Wednesday morning nearly the entire city and county police forces raided the Freedom House. Most waited outside while Sheriff Cauthen, Deputy Billy Noble and five or six Canton police came inside. Asked for a warrant, the police said they didn't need one as they walked into the building. They sent the local adults and children who were there at the time home and arrested everyone else for "investigation," a total of 12.

James Collier, SNCC field worker, Negro, 28, from Jackson, Miss.
George Raymond, CORE Task Force, Negro, 21, from New Orleans
Mattheo Suarez, CORE Task Force, Negro, 26, from New Orleans
C. O. Chinn, CORE Task Force, Negro, 42, from Canton
Joe Lee Watts, CORE Task Force, Negro, 20, from Canton
Theodis Hewitt, CORE Task Force, Negro, 25, from Canton
Richard Jewett, CORE Task Force, white, 30, from New York City
Andrew Lee Green, SNCC field worker, Negro, 29, from Hattiesburg, Miss.
Marcellus Byrd, Canton volunteer, Negro, c. 21
John Newman, white, 20, from Kalamazoo, Mich, with the National Conference of Methodist Youth Fellowship
Stanford Brown, volunteer from Chicago, Negro, 20 (back in Chi. now)
Scott B. Smith, Jr., volunteer from Chicago, Negro, 29
arrested 5 minutes after the others, at Plsnt. Grn.Ch.

Lenora Thurmond was not at the Freedom House at the time. The rest of the staff were either in the rural areas or outside the county at the time of the arrests.

In the county jail everyone was questioned about whether they had been on school property that morning. They also received lectures on the error of their ways (that the students should be in school, that the higher the school's average daily attendance, the larger their budget, etc.). They were told that they could be charged with contributing to the delinquency of a minor, aiding and abetting disorderly conduct, and disturbing the peace.

Also at about 10:30 AM Rev. Frank Gibson of Cincinnati was asked to come to the Sheriff's office for questioning which he did.

Between 4 and 5:30 PM all but two were released. CO Chinn was held for disturbing the peace and carrying a concealed weapon and Scott Smith for disturbing the peace. They appeared before Justice of the Peace Milton H. Sandidge on Tursday, March 5. No staff attended and they haven't checked to find out just what happened at the trial. What they think is that Smith was sentenced to $500 and 6 months and that Chinn, for some reason, wasn't tried. Chinn's bond is reportedly $1,000, Smith's, $500, both required to be property or surety bond.

On Wednesday night, March 4, there was a mass meeting at the Pleasant Green Church of about 100 people.

Property was secured in Canton for Chinn's and Smith's bond. James Collier went to the sheriff's office on Friday, March 6, to get the two out. The deputy in the sheriff's office was filling out the papers when Billy Noble came in and asked Collier if he were a lawyer. When Collier said no, Noble told Collier to get out, that they wouldn't give him the time of day. George Raymond went down and was told that he would have to get a lawyers seal on the papers. On Saturday George went again and this time Noble told him, "You have our registrar in Jackson, we have these niggers in jail. Come back Monday."

On Wednesday afternoon March 4, three boys were arrested in the town of Madison, Madison County. They are Floyd Bouldin, 19, trespassing and resisting arrest; Ernest Bouldin, 16, trespassing and resisting arrest; and Arthur Lee Bouldin, 18, trespassing, resisting arrest and carrying a concealed weapon. The story which came to us third hand is this. The three, plus a brother Samuel (who was driving) and a sister Benny Lou, were driving in Madison. They pulled out onto a street behind a highway patrol car and in front of the car of Constable Bruno Holley. All three cars happened to stop at a store a little way down the road. Constable Holley gave the Bouldins a hard time, claiming they had pulled out too close in front of him. They highway patrolmen left without saying anything, indicating that they hadn't done anything wrong. The Bouldins and Holley then went to their respective homes, but the Bouldins decided to go to Holley's house and apologize to him (oneof them had mowed his lawn and knew him to some degree). When Holley saw them walking toward his house he must have thought he was being attacked for he came out of his house and fired a pistol to the side of them. He had another man hold a rifle on them while he handcuffed the three brothers. Benny Lou and maybe Samuel watched this from their car. The three were taken to the county jail in Canton. Their father was at the sheriff's office arranging to post bond when someone there said that he had been seen on Freedom Day trying to register and they wouldn't let his sons out. The brothers were tried on Friday but no one knows the results yet.

On Thursday, March 5, the US Justice Department ~~xxxxxxx~~ filed suit in US District Court for the Southern District of Mississippi charging Madison County registrar L. F. Campbell with discrimination and asking the Court to issue a peliminary ~~xxx~~ injunction againhst him and the State of Mississippi, named as a codefendant in the suit. A closed hearing was held Saturday, March 7, in Judge Harold Cox's office. He has asked for briefs to be submitted by Tuesday, March 10. His decison is expected Wednesday.

On Friday night, March 6, about 9 PM Andrew Lee Green was arrested in Sharon, Madison County. He was arrested while sitting in the Pleasant Green Church by Billy Noble at the request of Forrest County (Hattiesburg) Sheriff. The charges against him ~~xxx~~ were speeding, driving without a license (which is ~~true~~) and an unpaid traffic ticket. He was taken to Hattiesburg on Saturday morning and was being held for $40 or 40 days. The staff in Canton sent money to get him out but they don't know if he is out.

There are not very accurate records of the people going to the courthouse. The staff is trying to improve on this. The best available for last week are:

	Went to Courthouse	Took test
Monday, March 2	15	5
Tuesday, March 3	12	9
Wednesday, March 4	5	3
Thursday, March 5	11	10
Friday, March 6	12	8
Saturday, March 7	unknown as the staff was in Jackson, hoping to ~~xxx~~ be present (with some Madison Co. locals) at the hearing of the Justice Department's suit	

During the week the following incidents were reported to the staff; none has been really checked on.

1. Lank Williams (40, a truck driver) and his family live and work on a plantation owned by Joe Smith and Billy Leadbelly, northeast of Sharon in Madison County. He has lived in Madison County all his life. On February 27 Smith told all his employees that anyone who went to try to register on Friday (Freedom Day) would be fired and would have to leave their homes on the plantation. Lank Williams' two sons had already decided they would go and they did. On the afternoon of the 28th Leadbelly told Lank that he had seen his sons at the courthouse and that they (the sons) would have to get off the place. They did immediately and a week later Lank and his wife (no information about any othermembers of the family) moved off to keep the family together.

2. Lilly Mae Murphy worked in a clothing store in "downtown" Canton. Her boss told her that if she tried to register she would be fired. She tried to register on Freedom Day and was fired.

3. It is reported that on Friday, Feb. 28, the "boss" of the county maintenance department order space cleared in the large truck shed, saying it was for demonstrators if the jails didn't have enough room. He told his employees that if they tried to register they would be fired. Apparently addressing his employees, he told all of them who were "with

me" to come over to the side of the shed where he was standing. It is reported that less than half of the ~~fm~~ 50-75 employees went over, but as far as is known none tried to register.

The staff has heard that the ~~the~~ ~~gasoline~~ gasoline pumps of a man named Otto Williams have been taken out, but there are ~~no~~ no details at all on this.

Miscellaneous notes:

The front springs on Dave Dennis' car were apparently stolen in Canton. They were discovered missing after the car returned from several days there.

The Madison County Movement (Negro) ~~has~~ put out the first issue of a mimeographed newsletter, the Madison County Citizen on Sunday, March 8.

The ministers left on Saturday, Feb. 29 but another group came on Monday, March 2. All of them had left by Thursday morning March 5.

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List of those in jail.

Arrests May 29, 1964

Willie B. Jones 315 E. Boyd St.	age 19	Parading without a permit
Edward Blackman 374 N. West St.	age 16	Parading without a permit
Roby B. Hornes, Jr. 231 First Ave.	17	P. W. P.
Mozie Cole 355 A. Boyd St.	18	P. W. P.
Ike James Davis 324 W. Fulton St.	17	P. W. P.
Charles Ray Brown 320 FrostSt.	17	P. W. P.
Joe Lee Hawblue 417 Welch St.	17	P. W. P.
J. T. McMerty 371 N. Railroad	16	P. W. P.
Wendell E. Bortee 505 Singleton St.	17	P. W. P.
Marvis Sonall Box 4,	23	PWP
Earnestine Hollis Sharon, Miss.	17	Picketing
Jessie Mae Dawson R 2, Box 110 Camden, Miss.	18	Picketing
Ed Hollander 2051 Talbot Rd. Baltimore, Md.	23	PWP
Charles Mory 47 N - Mo	26	PWP
Betty Jean Shell Sharon, Miss	16	PWP
Edward Drain, Jr. Camden, Miss.	54	PWP
James Bennett 211 W. Center St.	39	PWP
Glen B. Hosman, Jr. 1223 Magic Circle Empora, Kansas	27	PWP
Liza S. Esco RD Box 200 Canton	48	PWP

COPY

Ben J. Washington RI Box 67 A Camden	47	PWP
Leon Luckett 205 Main St.	16	Picketing
Earms L. Alexander R 1, Box 200 Canton	50	PWP
Mack Owens R 3, Box 302	86	PWP
Rosa Mae Small 207 Main St.	16	Picketing
Gladys Mae Drain 116 Main St.	19	Picketing
Susie Nichols Camden, Miss.	61	PWP
Willie C. Bennett 225 Main St.	18	Picketing
Dewett Grant 609 Cameron St.	16	Picketing
Wyatt Adam George R 2, Box 116, Camden	16	Picketing
Marie Evans R 1, Box 157 A Camden, Miss.	17	Picketing
Sonny Lee Walker 203 Main St.	16	Picketing
Mary Johnson R 1, Box 200, Canton	50	PWP
Clesie McClough RFD Sharon	69	PWP
Christine Austin R 4, Box 52, Sharon	18	Picketing
Barbara Ann Gray R 4, Box 49, Sharon	17	Picketing
John F. Lacey Saw Mill Quarter, Canton,	17	Picketing
John Lee Bady Box 38, Sharon,	18	Picketing
Loraine Hamblin R 4, Box 52, Sharon	21	Picketing
Annie Pearl Clay Camden, Miss.	19	Picketing

COPY

Barbara Jean Brown R 1, Box 32, Madison	16	Picketing
Barbara Nell Luckett R 4, Box 55, Sharon	16	Picketing
Sears Buckley, Jr.x Canal St., Canton	19	Picketing
Jack McIton 441 Cowen St.	18	Picketing
James Alvin Washington R 1, Box 69, Camden	19	Picketing
Percy Johnson P. O. Box 147, Sharon	19	Picketing
Herman O. Dawson R 2, Box 110, Camden	20	Picketing
Shirley M. Brown 305 First Ave.	18	Picketing
Robert Thomas R 4, Box 47, Sharon	19	Obstructing sidewalks
Connie Ray Smith P. O. Box 7, Sharon	16	Obstructing sidewalks
Core Kenneth Brown 305 First Ave.	19	Parading without a permit
Frank Washington, Jr. R1, box 67-A Camden	19	Parading without a permit

COPY

June 15, 1964

Mr. George Raymond
838 Lutz Street
Canton, Mississippi

Dear George,

Let me remind you again of the need for thorough planning in regard to the beginning of the summer program. I believe we discussed yesterday the following items: housing, food, transportation, a meeting-place. You must also set up an orientation program on Madison County itself. This will include a summary of the work COFO has done, a list or description of incidents that have occurred, the names of prominent and important people, both intergrationists and segregationists. It should include as much information as you have about legal cases completed, in process, or pending in the near future.

It is very important that you have available all the facts and figures that are necessary to get the program started. How many attempted to register, how many have registered, how many Freedom School applicants, names and addresses of pastors and churches participating in the Freedom School program, etc. Finally it is important that all this material be presented, discussed and changed when necessary in staff meeting (s) before the new people arrive.

I must point out also that the Southern Office received a report from Canton dated March 9 through March 15. Since then, silence. I would suggest that you draw up a report covering March 15 to June 13. I would prefer that the emphasis in such a report be placed on what staff people were doing, where they did it, how much community progress was achieved, what programs (welfare, etc.) were set up, what demonstrations were carried out--rather than an emphasis on dramatic incidents. The latter, as you know, have been thoroughly treated in special press releases.

Sincerely,

Richard Haley

RH/ds

June 15, 1964

Mrs. C. O. Chinn
c/o George Raymond
838 Lutz Street
Canton, Mississippi

Dear Mrs. Chinn:

I am sorry I was unable to see you during my short weekend trip. I am even more sorry that I was also unable to see Rosenthal in Jackson; consequently, I am unable to give you any progress report on Rosenthal's work for C. O.

The enclosed letter is a copy of one which I have already sent to Rosenthal. I simply want to reassure you that we are doing all we can. As you know, progress through the courts is a slow process.

I hope you and your family continue in the best of health, and the highest hope that eventually justice will win.

Sincerely,

Richard Haley

RH/ds
Enc.

June 15, 1964

L. H. Rosenthal, Attorney
221 N. President Street
Jackson, Mississippi

Dear Rosenthal,

I tried diligently to locate you on Saturday, the 13th, but without success. I was especially hopeful of discussing the Chinn case with you before continuing my trip to Canton. Since I missed you, I wonder if you could summarize the progress of this case by giving some light on these questions.

Have you been able to gather sufficient evidence from records to draw up a substantial case of exclusion of Negroes from Madison County Juries?

Could you suggest an approximate time when you will present this material before the court?

Is there the possibility if carrying this procedure to a higher court if you are denied?

Is is feasible to consider petitioning for the release of Mr. Chinn by habeas corpus?

Do you have any suggestions as to how this work may be helped, either by CORE or the Chinn family?

Do you not think it would be a good morale builder for Mr. Chinn if you arrange to see him the next time you are in Canton?

I would appreciate very much some c omments from you on these questions. I am sure Mrs. Chinn would also; I hope you will send her a carbon of your reply. Please let me hear from you at your convenience.

Sincerely,

Richard Haley

RH /ds

cc Mrs. C. O. Chinn

ATTORNEY GENERAL ROBERT F KENNEDY

MP JUN 12 1964
60 NL PD
523 7204
WASH DC

CONTINUE DEEPLY DISTURBED ABOUT GROWING CONTEMPT
FOR LAW AND HUMANITY ON PART OF MISSISSIPPI
WHITES. CANTON IN CRITICAL STATE IN MY OPINION.
AWARE INVESTIGATIONS ARE CARRIED ON BUT
SITUATION OBVIOUSLY DEMANDS EMERGENCY
MEASURES. BELIEVE EFFECTIVE CONTAINMENT OF VIOLENCE
IN CANTON WOULD INDUCE SUBSTANTIAL SELF
RESTRAINT IN OTHER AREAS. BELIEVE CONVERSE
ALSO TRUE. URGE YOUR SERIOUS CONSIDERATION
AND ACTION AT ONCE.

RICHARD HALEY

Copy

C O R E
2211 DRYADES ST
CONFIRMATION FURNISHED

210 NL PD

ALLEN ADAMS

JET MAGAZINE 1820 SOUTH MICHICAN AVE CHGO

THREECASES OF VIOLENCES, INCLUDING TWO BOMBING,
OCCURED IN ~~XXXXX~~ CANTON MISSISSIPPI EARLY THIS MORNING.

SHORTLY AFTER MIDNIGHT AN EXPLOSVIE WAS PLACED ~~XXXXXX~~
OR THROWN INTHE FRONT YARD OF MR$ ALBERTA ROBBINS
WHO HAS BEEN ACTIVE IN THE DRIVE FOR ~~XX~~ NEGRO
VOTER REGISTRATION IN MADISON COUNTY. THE BLAST BLEW
OUT THEFRONT WINDOWS OF THE ROBBINS RESIDENCE.

CFM FUR~~X~~ SG
2211 DRYADES ST

VERY SHORTLY THEREAFTER A SECOND EXPLOSION OCCURED
ON THE FRONT LAWN OF PLEASANT GREEN HOLINESS CHURCH
RALLYING CENTER OF THE FREEDOM DAY DEMONSTRATION
LAST MAY 29TH. WINDOWS WERE BLASTED OUT.

AMOUNT OF DAMAGE HAS NOT BEEN ESTIMATED. MRS ROBBINS
IS NEGRO; THE ~~XXXX~~ PLEASANT GREEN CHURCH IS ALSO A NEGRO
INSTITUTION.

THURSDAY EVENING MRS LULA WRIGHT WAS ADMITTED TO
KINGS DAUGHTERS HOSPITAL IN CANTON WITH A HEAD WOUND
THAT REQUIRED FIVE STITCHES. MRS WRIGHT ~~XXXXXX~~
RELATES SHE WAS ARRESTED BY COUNTY OFFICIALS ON CHARGE
OF GRASS BURNING APPARENTLY ON THE COMPLAINTOF A NEIGHBOR
MRS WRIGHT STATES SHE OFFERED NO RESISTANCE BUT ~~XXX~~
DID QUESTION THE CHARGE . THEREUPON SHE WASSTRUCK ON
THE HEAD WITH A ~~XXXX~~ MACE BY ONE OF THE OFFICERS.

RICHARD HALEY

HER CONDITION WAS LISTED AS SERIOUS.

GEORGE RAYMOND, CO STAFF WORKER IN CANTON VISITED
MRS WRIGHT AT THE HOSPITAL BUT WAS EJECTED BY A LOCAL
POLICE OFFICER AS SOON AS HIS PRESENCE WAS DISCOVERED

LARGEST MISS. VOTER REGISTRATION ATTEMPT IN CANTON

"Freedom Day" (February 28) in Canton, Mississippi, saw over 300 Negroes stand in line to register in this state's largest registration attempt. Negroes from all over rural Madison County (which is 72% Negro) waited at the county courthouse between 3 and 5 hours in the chilly air. Registrar L. Foote Campbell admitted only five to take the registration test. He told them they would be notified by mail "in about 30 days" whether they had passed the test. Despite Canton's history of violence and harassment, including shootings, beatings and loss of jobs, there were only minor incidents as more than 50 police patrolled the streets. The shotgun and tear gas equipped police - city, county, state, special and some from other counties - prevented any crowds of onlookers from gathering. As each Negro took his place in line he was asked his name, address and business at the courthouse. Only residents of Madison county 21 years old and over were allowed to remain on the courthouse grounds. Many of the Negroes were 40 and over; some were in their 70's and 80's. A group of 15 ministers from the National Council of Churches and agents from the FBI and Justice Department were present as observers.

The registration drive, organized by CORE and SNCC, under the structure of COFO (Council of Federated Organizations in Mississippi), was viewed as a success by its leaders. Said CORE field secretary Dave Dennis, "Today was a dramatization showing that the Negro people in rural Mississippi want to vote and are willing to risk harassment and intimidation in order to register.""The only thing preventing them from registering is the unwillingness of local officials to let them register. Dennis said the drive would continue with smaller groups for at least the next several weeks. Additional large demonstrations were a "definite possibility," he said.

"Many more people could have taken the test," Dennis stated, "if

county officials had heeded our request for additional registrars on Freedom Day." "They managed to obtain plenty of extra police." Dennis said a new strategy was being used in Mississippi, one of preventing incidents during publicized events but still not registering Negroes. Because of this, he said, many people think that violence and brutality have lessened in Mississippi and that Negroes are being allowed to register. Dennis called both impressions "very false."

On Friday evening a Negro teenager, Milton Esco, 17, of Canton was arrested for ~~making~~ violating a court order by being around the Freedom House (office and residence of civil rights workers). Esco had been arrested on January 23 for distributing leaflets without a permit, violating an ordinance passed by Canton on January 21 to combat an effective selective buying campaign of the Negroes. He was released by ~~juvenile~~ juvenile court on good behavior and instructed not to take part in any civil rights activities.

At his news conference on Friday in Jackson, Governor Paul B. Johnson urged citizens to stay away from demonstrations, saying that such matters "should be left in the hands of law enforcement officers." He added, "When situations such as these arise, when the agitators make a spectacle of themselves, I'd like to see the people laugh."

Apparently with Canton in Mind, the state legislature on Wednesday, February 26 passed a bill providing for "mutual assistance pacts" among Mississippi cities. The bill provides for cities to pool "personnel, equipment, supplies and material" to combat natural disasters and for the "prevention and alleviation of riots, or civil disturbances of the peace and tranquility within such municipalities." The act provided that it should be "liberally construed" to serve its purposes. The presence in Canton of police from other counties indicates that the bill was being put to prompt use.

The legislature also passed a bill allowing cities to restrict the movement of any citizens. The bill provides that in order "to protect property, health and lives and to enhance the general welfare of the community" municipalities may "restrict the movements of the citizens, or any group thereof, of suchmunicipalities when there is eminent (sic) danger to the public safety because of freedom of movement thereof." On the day after Freedom Day, Saturday, February 29, Canton Mayor L. Stanley Matthews declared a 10 PM curfew for all citizens.

A third bill passed by the legislature last week was introduced by state senator Ed Henry from Canton. Canton's selective buying campaign ~~is~~ against 21 stores and three products is in its ninth week and is about 90% effective. Senator Henry's bill provides penalities of up to $500 and six months in county jail "if any person shall wilfully and maliciously print, circulate or distribute" any material designed to "wilfully and maliciously interfere with, or prevent another from exercising a lawful trade or calling, or engaging in lawful use and enjoyment of his property."

########

/Ed Hollander

Additional Canton information:

1. On Saturday Feb. 29, 25 Negroes stood in line at the courthouse from 10 AM to 12 noon. Two were admitted to take the test. There were no incidents and a lot, but not quite as many as Friday, of police.
2. On Monday, March 2 George Raumond was arrested. Not sure why, but believe for bad brakes and faulty muffler on friend's car he was driving.
3. Monday, March 2, students boycotted Rogers High School in Canton; about 1400 of 1700 stayed out. It was organized by the students themselves. They have 13 demands (will get copy) and hope to meet with Mayor, Superintendant and principal on Wednesday.
4. The Esco situation is being looked into.
5. N o arrests for curfew violations that we know of.

June 1, 1964
Canton, Miss.

STATEMENT BY MRS. Bessie McMurtry CONCERNING EFFORTS TO VISIT HER SON IN JAIL AT CANTON, MISSISSIPPI

On Saturday morning, May 30, I went to the police station to request permission to visit my son. The officer at the desk sent me to Mr. Goldman. Mr. Goldman made a telephone call, then told me that there would not be visiting hours on Saturday.

On Sunday at about 1 p.m. I went againg to the police station. Again they sent me to Mr. Goldman, but he was not in his bffice. There was no one else to ask, so I returned home.

My son's name is J.T. McMurtry. He was arrested Friday, May 29 ~~for participation in the Freedom Day demonstrations for voters registration for Negroes in Canton~~ to me. He has been in jail since that time.

Mrs Bessie McMurtry

Mrs. Bessie McMurtry

June 15, 1964

Carsie Hall, Attorney
19½ Farish Street
Jackson, Mississippi

Dear Carsie,

The one thing I forgot to mention to you in our last conversation was the Otha Williams case. I remember you said you had 30 days in which to file an appeal on this matter. Knowing the pressure of the work with which you are now burdened, I simply want to remind you not to let this case get lost in the scuffle. Aside from the money involved in the fine there is also a matter of getting placed on record the testimony of witnesses concerning police drunkeness and brutality. It seems to me now might be the most propitious time for such testimonies, because there is some evidence of a growing split in the white community.

In the same regard I hope you will talk to Mrs. Lula Bell Wright about the incident in which she was clubbed by county officers. I have also been led to believe that a fine of $44 has been paid for her--by check--without her ever having had either arraignment or trial.

Keep up the good work.

Sincerely,

Richard Haley

RH/ds

Canton

Canton, Mississippi July 20, 1964

Dear Richard,

Dave referred your letter to me so I'll try to answer your questions. The listing of Task Force in the Fourth District is as follows:

1. Preston Ponder - working on a four man rotating team in and around Meridian. This area of work includes Lauderdale, Kemper, Neshoba, Clarke, Newton and Jasper counties. The focus of work is freedom registration and the programs of the Freedom Democratic Party in Mississippi.

2. Annie Pearl Clay - works in Leake county in the Harmony-Carthage area doing freedom registration and setting precinct and county meeting. (I'm not sure if she's on Task Force officially).
3. Theodies Hewitt - is in charge of the work in Leake County.
4. Joe Lee Watts - wokrs in Madison County southetn portion: Flora-Madison area.
5. Marvellus Byrd - has suffered with a bad foot and has not been wok working lately.
6. Pat Walker - working in Southeast Mississippi around McComb.

I think Dave has plans for using a Mary Lovelace from Jackson to work in Alantic City on housing and fund raising for the convention challenge.

Other staff people in Mississippi are: Gore, Louis Smith (working as part of a rotating team in Meridian areas), George Raymond (rotating in the Canton area) and Matt Suarez who operates the FOP's headquaters in Jackson.

Staff meetings in Canton are usually held on Mondays at 9:00 with local staff and people in charge of canvassing in Canton. I have tried to hold staff meeting in Meridian on Tuesday afternoon with little success. All such meetings, as you can guess, are tentative.

Sorry to "postpond" a reply.

Rudy Lombard

Council Of Federated Organizations

September 10, 1964

Dear Rich,

Hope this note finds you well, enjoying New Orleans and everything else.

Enclosed are the weekly reports and incident summaries you have asked for. From the reports you can get a pretty general idea of what we desperately need. As soon as I get a chance I'll send you a more detailed list of needed supplies.

Take care and don't wear yourself out.

Yours In The Struggle,

George Raymond

GR/mcs

P.S. Enclosed are also three leaflets concerning different things we're pushing here.

CANTON COFO, TWO WEEK'S REPORT
September 10, 1964

OFFICE ADMINISTRATION

The office staff has recently changed hands. Margaret Cunningham and Mary McGroaty have gone home. Mary Ann Shupenko is now in charge and is in the process of re-organizing finances and files. During the summer a lot of records of incidents were not kept. She is trying to track down the people involved in arrests and trials and get their statements.

Finances have been straightened out by George Raymond, Jimmy Bolden and Mary Ann. However, Jesse Morris has now worked out a new budget and we'll have to begin working into it. Leake County is getting their own budget, so out of this office will be handled only Canton, Valley View and Rankin County.

We are in desperate need of a tall filing cabinet and of a good typewriter. We have nothing but a bunch of broken down portables in the office. Local people have come in by the dozen inquiring about welfare. The Welfare Committee of the Madison County Movement is pretty poorly organized. They have no communication with the people, consequently they continually come into the office for help. We could use another shipment of food and clothing in Madison County.

We could also use a good telephone code into Jackson. Lately with all the incidents occurring here in Canton, we have used the phone quite a bit calling the Jackson office, and the operator gives us quite a bit of trouble with the John Anderson code.

Things are still a little confusing, but they are all getting straightened out and the work is being done. The local people here are most cooperative. They are getting tired of being harassed by the police and are very willing to give statements and affadavits.

COMMUNITY CENTER

Martha Wright is in charge of the Center. Her staff consists of Arlene Bock and Sally Schiedler (both of whom have been returning for more than a week but who have not appeared as yet), George Johnson (who runs in and out and who is also working on the boycott), and Jo Ann Coiman.

Wednesday, September 2, 1964 we moved the Center from St. Paul's AME Zion Church to the green house next door to the Freedom House. The entire house had to be cleaned, and we painted the inside. We also had shelves built.

Since all the male staff members were busy with other things, we had to depend on local teenager boys for all the heavy moving and painting. This was a problem at first because many of the teenagers who frequent the vicinity of the Freedom House are extremely reluctant to do anything for us which requires physical effort. But it was profitable also, since we now know who the willing, dependable workers are and have gotten to know them. The same applies to local teenage girls who have been helping to set up the library.

The Center should be open by Monday, September 14. Its immediate functions will include:

1) library, catalogued and with a check-out system; staffed by local teen aged girls.
2) at least one afternoon or evening per week devoted to just children under 12 (recreation, story telling, etc.).
3) one evening for teenagers (Youth Club and M.S.U.).
4) tutoring and citizenship classes.
5) guitar and piano lessons (given by two local people).
6) photography classes (Arlene Bock).

We also will have Freedom School at the Center and hopefully a roving Freedom School to cover the Flora, Gluckstadt, and Cedar Grove areas of the county. <u>BUT WE NEED MORE FREEDOM SCHOOL TEACHERS</u>.

We also need sewing machines with which Judy Orr (Federal Programs) will run sewing classes in the Center, and we will work closely with them.

<u>FEDERAL PROGRAMS</u>

The Federal Programs staff consists of Judy and Eric Orr and Milton Pickett. The principle concern of this staff is the Farmers' League and the Chamber of Commerce. As a necessary adjunct to both is investigation of health and welfare on the federal, state and county levels.

The League should grow substantially from the A.S.C. election experience. The chances are good for an integrated county committee. The organization that will win the election will solidify the League. Next will be the cotton gin coop. While the A.S.C. organization is going on, moves will be made to tie up land for the gin. Frank Weil addressed the League on incorporation August 26. He gained easy rapport with them and they seemed anxious to cooperate. When they answered his questions about incoroporating they were committing themselves to economic action. He made it clear to them that he would work hard and draw up the plans. They are becoming aware that the League is going to engage in economic activity that will benefit them and give them a respected voice in the white community.

The Chamber of Commerce suffers from ambivalence and fear of the whites. It will be hard but important to get the community committed to group action. Classes will be set up in bookkeeping

and other management skills. These will be needed by the men who will direct the shopping center. Two LCDC lawyers met with the group August 24 and explained how to set up a corporation and its function. Then there was a general question and answer period. The discussion was taped to be played back to the committee people who were out of town.

We have tried to open up the Canton mystery on welfare. To do this we have used ministers to canvass and conduct interviews in the Negro community. The initial effort was to get some sort of picture and data on welfare conditions in the community. The ministers were good at canvassing and would have been extremely valuabe if we could have given them mimeographed questionnaires which would obtain reliable and uniform data on the community. However, the mimeograph machine was out of repair. The main problem with welfare now is to get detailed information on exactly who is entitled to what. Judy is researching her questions via the available material, but much work is still to be done. We have a number of cases to follow up as soon as we have the necessary information.

We had a short but successful meeting with Dr. Vital, President of Tougaloo on August 24. He is a member of theMississippi Advisory Committee and of Governor Collins' committee to implement the new Civil Rights Bill. He pledged his support and invited us back again. We will make an appointment to see him next week. He referred us to people who will assist us in arranging for a night course in bookkeeping; the course will be offered through the Chamber of Commerce. We then talked to Mr. Briggs, thePublic Relations man for Tougaloo. He gave us the names of two Jackson teachers to contact. In addition he agreed to give us help in arranging for speakers.

The area of Federal labor law violations has not been investigated. This means checking the industries in the Madison County area as to contracts, the nature of their trade (intra- or inter-state), and if they comply with the Fair Labor Standards Act (minimum wage, time and a half for overtime). This information is difficult to get, but not impossible.

POLITICAL PROGRAMS

Chris Rainone and Mrs. Anne Divine are in charge of Political Programs. They will concentrate in the next few weeks on establishing a county-wide organization for the purpose of dealing with future elections and manifesting the program of the Freedom Part . Organization will be along beat-precinct lines. A block captain system for communication will be set up in the Canton area.

The county organization will center around FP County Executive Committee. The three committee members in each beat will be responsible for mobilizing the program in their beat and will develop county programs on the Executive Committee. Each beat will operate on a three-precinct basis for close contact with the entire member-

ship. A meeting place will be located in each precinct. Workshops will be held in the precincts to familiarize people with the FP program and to choose precinct leaders. Later candidates for local elections will be chosen through the precinct system. A county-wide mass meeting to be held September 12 will serve to launch this county organization.

For purposes of efficient communication and de-centralized control, a block captain system will be organized in Canton. The city has been dibided into ten areas, each to be headed by an area secretary. The area secretary will be responsible to the Precient One Leader and to the secretary of the Madison County Movement so the system will serve both FP and the Movement.

To make FP in Madison County a formidable political entity the number of Negro voters in the county must be substantially increased. Thus we will continue to emphasize voter registration. A VR checklist to ascertain exactly what the situation is in this regard will be obtained through the precinct leaders and block captains. A Civil Rights Rally, possible of district-wide proportions, will be held on October 3, as a prelude to a Freedom Day and to encourage registration attempts generally. The suit against the Madison County registrar which is now pending in a Federal District Court will be followed closely and moved to the Fifth Circuit if necessary to fully mobilize the counties eligible Negro voters who compose 73 percent of all eligible voters in the county.

A permanent office for Madison County is now being sought. Fund raising activities for this and other party activities will be considered shortly.

SCHOOL INTEGRATION

Tuesday, September 1, 1964 the children met at Freedom House at 8:00 p.m. Seven children actually went into the school to attempt to register. Parents were not allowed to get out of the cars or go into the schools with the children.

The children were met at the sidewalk by Superintendant Allen and the police and were taken into the school by them. They then wrote their names and addresses on a piece of paper. On this paper they also wrote their grades. The Supt. questioned them on who sent them and why they came. He told them that registration for transfer students was to take place on Thursday. They then left. Since the police would not allow parking in front of the school, the children had to walk a block or so before they were picked up by Dr. Bridger of the Medical Committee.

The children who went were: Eddie Williams
Richard Weatherford
Sammie Owens
James McCullough
Addie Goines

Lawyers were present at the Freedom House and took statements. Billy Noble and several police cars sat out in fron of Freedom House all day.

Thursday, September 3, 1964, children and parents met at the Freedom House at 8:00 a.m. The 19 children who went to register included: Eddie Williams, 7th grade, age 12
Richard Weatherford, 8th gr. age 13
Sammie Owens, 7th gr. age 12
James McCullough, 8th gr., age 13
Hattie Mae Oliver, 8th gr. age 16
Floyd Esco, 7th gr., age 15
DeWitt Grant, 10th gr., age 16
Helen Owens, 8th gr. age 14
Mary Chambers, 8th gr. age 14
John Anderson, 7th gr., age 13
James Anderson, 7th gr. age 13
Chester Thomas, 9th gr. age 16
Jimmy Grant, 9th gr. age 15
Gladys Pinkins, 10th gr., age 14
Lena Harrison, 9th gr. age 15
Georga Mae Reid, 9th gr. age 13
Mary Lee Bennet, 7th gr. age 13
Betty Jean Silas, 8th gr. Age 13
Juanita Bennet, 8th gr. age 14

The parents who attempted to accompany them were:
Rosa Lee Weatherford, Mrs.
Mr. McCullough
Mrs. Luckett
Mrs. J. Bennet

The press statement was issued by Mrs. Annie Divine and Mrs. Luckett.

The children left the Freedom House at 10:15 in five cars driven by a member of the Medical Committee and b Rev. Kenworthy. Parents were in the cars with the children.

Cars were staked out at Liberty Supermarket and people were staked out at vantage points throughout the school and downtown area. The cars were driven by Dr. Fredrick Johnson, Dr. Dave Denison, Dr. Robert Axelrod, Rev. Kenworthy and Dr. Buckingham.

Rev. Kenworthy and Dr. Denison's cars got through to the schools and de osited the children. Parents were not allowed to enter with the children. The other three cars were detained at the sheriff's office until our lawyers could get down there with a verbal authorization to drive the cars. They were then allowed to deposit the children in front of Canton High School.

Thechildren were taken into the school and filled out t ansfer applications. The school board asked them why they wanted to come to this school and they answered that Cant n had better equipment than Rogers High. The superintendant told them that Rogers was better equipped, that it had 3 laboratories and that Canton High had no library, both of the last two statements were lies. They then asked the children, if they were allowed to come back next Tuesday would they come? The children all answer d yes. They then left, walked off the ground and a ways before the cars arrived to pick them up. Then they came b

to pick them up. They they came back to the Freedom House and told their stories.

On the local scene, there w re police and sheriffs' cars all over the school area. It was swarming with them. Out in front of the school there were several white men, fairly well dressed. Two or three cars of hoods circled the school. All the city trucks were out tarring the streets or just in general blocking the streets. They were alerted to watch for us and probably stop us. At any rate, 19 children got into that school and filled out forms.

We had excellent press coverage -- Life, NBC, ABC, etc.

SUMMARY OF INCIDENTS

September 1 there were two arrests: Houston Howard for reckless driving and running a stop sign; James Bennett for
Both w re released the following day. Both were struck b officials as they were being released.

September 3 the families of two children who attempted to register at Canton High received threats. A road on a white man's property was declared a forbidden route for the Weatherford family. The Canton Postmaster, Mr. Luder warned the grandmother of Betty Jean Silas that her grand-daughter sho ld not have tried to register.

Also September 3 a red truck with one light and a black chevy passed Freedom House. Occupants of these cars were seen throwing bottles in the area of Freedom House. Shortly after the police came to the House and asked to look around inside. They blamed the bottle throwing on Freedom House occupants and said that if nnything is thrown from the House again they will arrest everybody on the grounds and in the building.

September 4 the Owen family was warned about the registration of their daughter at Canton. James Sutton, Mr. Owen's boss at the Gulf Oil Co. threatened Mr. Owen with the loss of his job.

September 5 Mrs. Pinkie Stovall was stopped in downtown Canton while shopping on Center St. and ordered into the police c r. When she asked why she was being arrested one police officer knock d her down and both dragged her into the police car and took her to the city jail. They told her she was a rested for cussing. The actual charge was resisting arrest and disturing the Peace. She was released on $75 bond Sunday afternoon. Earlier Saturday her son was arrested. The charge is not nown. Neither is involved in civil rights work.

11:00 p.m. Sept 5 COFO received a report that about 9:00 p.m. in downtown Canton b the train station a white pickup truck stopped, two hite men got out of the truck and forced a young Negro boy (about 18 or 19, stocky build) into the truck at the oint of a gun and then drove off west towards Flora. There was a crowd of people around at this time but no one got an accurate description of the white men, the truck, or the Negro youth. This was reported to the City Police.

September 5, 10 p.m. all Negro bootleggers were closed up for an indefinite period.

September 6, 2:30 A.M. Joe and Barb's store (owned by Joe Ferguson) was bombed. The store is approximately 2 blocks away from the Freedom House. There was considerable interior damage to the structure of the building. The ceiling is falling in, all the glass in the windows and doors is broken. It didn't appear that there was any great damage to the stock in the store. City police, sheriff's men and a great number of FBI (15 to 20) appeared~~x~~ to investigate.

September 6, 3:10 a.m. six sticks of dynamite and a bomb were found on George Washington's premises. A search was also made of the land around Freedom House and the Community Center (G.W.'s store is kitty-korner from Freedom House), but no other bombs were found.

September 6, 6:30 a.m., George Raymond and James Saunders were arrested in front of Mr. Washington's store by Deputy Sheriff Billy Noble and Police chief Don Thompson. They were taken to the city jail for investigation. Mr. Raymond was released at 10:45 and Mr. Saunders at 11:15 the same morning.

September 6, 9:45 p.m. Mr. Wilbur Robinson and 7 other people were arrested for no reason. They were not told what the charges were and spent the night in jail. In the morning Mr. Robinson was charged with disturbing the peace. He paid bond of ~~XXX~~ $16 and was released about 8:15 a.m.

September 6, Chester Thomas and his mother were threatened with the loss of their home by Jake Vincent and Amos Dial if Chester were to go to Canton High.

September 7, all Negro businesses were raided by the police.

September 8, 13 Negro students were turned away from Canton High, told to go to Rogers High until the School Board notified them of its official action on their requests for transfers.

September 8, 12:05 p.m. William Forsythe Jr. arrested when he took two Negro women to the Court House to register to vote. He was taken in "for investigation."

About 9 am Wednesday September 9th, a body was found

in the big Black River off Highwar 51 North near Pickens, Mississippi by pulp wood workers employed by Junior Penn. This information was brought to the Canton COFO office by Henry Earl Ware , 18, about 1:30 pm . He stated further that the bodywas that ofa boy wearing a CORE T-shirt and white undershorts. George Raymond made several telephone calls includingone to the Highway Patrol in Jackson, where it war learned fwom Sam Ivy that the boy was Negro and about 14 years old.

Af
After contacting the national office of CORE, Raymond learned that the boy's name was Herbert Oarsby, 14, New Orleans, who had been visiting his grandparents, Mr. Tobe Hart, in Pickens, Miss.

It was learned that the body had been removed by State Highway patrolmen and taken to the Holmes County Coroner's office in Lexington (Holmes County), Mississippi.

At 6:30 pm a party from the Canton Cofo Office, consisting of Jerome Smith, (CORE Field Secretary), Henry Aronson (CORE counsel in Mississippi), Sue Buckingham (physician for ~~CHR~~) and two NBC newspapermen went to Pickens to investigate further.

Mrs. Ida Oarsby, the boy's aunt, was first contacted by Mr. Smith. She stated that the body had been found hanging over a bush with the face in the water. She said he had been missing since Sunday night. She suggested that the grandfather, with whom the boy was staying, had more complete information. Mr. Tobe Hart was then found, and Mr. Smith talked with him. He said the boy went out of the house Monday noon, the grandfather thought to play with the cows in the field. He was missed later, but the boy's brother (here also from New Orleans) told the grandfather that Herbert often played so late that he went to the house of relatives overnight without notifying the parents, and thought that was why he was gone. It was not until Wednesday morning, when the grandfather ~~[illegible]~~ was walking along the river, that the body was seen. The grandfather thought it was a dog at first, but then saw the clothes on the bank. The grandfather did not know about a CORE T-shirt. He returned to the house, notified the police, the undertaker, and the doctor. They apparently examined the body and assured the grandfather that he was not shot or harmed. The grandfather believes the boy drowned. He was known not to be able to swim, and had been begging to go swimming. The family thinks he stepped off the bank and found the water deeper than expected (water level in the Big Black is very low ordinarily). The boy had run away from home in New Orleans, where his parents are separated. The mother was notified by the grandparents to come to Pickens, and was expected Thursday, when the funeral was scheduled.

Another local informant contacted by Mr. Smith led to an interview with the ambulance driver who had brought the body from the Coroner's office to the funeral home in Pickens. He stated that he had seen the body and that he saw no bruises or bullet holes. He suggested that if a COFO physician saw the body it would have to be early Thursday morning.

Jerome Smith and Henry Aronson returned to Jackson at 8:45 p.m. to contact a COFO worker who was acquainted with the Pickens area. They were to consult the Jackson Medical Coordinator, Dr. Jeanne Sperlock, about obtaining a pathologist from outside to make a medical examination. Smith stated that the Negro community members with whom he had talked were suspicious about the circumstances of removal and examination of the body.

It was learned Thursday morning that Dr. Sperlock had contacted two pathologists, in St. Louis and New York, about medicolegal questions involved in obtaining an autopsy. Permission of the county authroities would have to be granted in order for this examination to take place.

Catherine Nicholas, Negro from Canton, Mississippi, and several other eyewitness who were not interviewed, reported that she had seen a Negro boy the same age and size being forced into a white pickup truck at gunpoint by two white men in downtown Canton at 9 p.m. the previous Saturday. This was investigated by George Raymond and duly reported to local police Saturday evening and to the FBI Sunday morning.

COPY

Press Release from Parents of Canton Negro Students
September 3, 1964

We are American citizens complying with the Civil Rights Bill, Title IV, Sec. 401 (B) and 401 (C), which assures us that "Desegregation means the assignment of students to public schools and within such schools without regard to their race, color, religion, or national origin...". "Public school means any elementary or secondary educational institution, and public college means any institution of higher education or any technical or vocational school above the secondary school level, provided that such public school or public college is operated by a State, subdivision of a State, or governmental agency within a State, or operated wholly or predominantly from or through the use of governmental funds or property, or funds or property derived from a governmental source."

In Canton, Mississippi, a county with a population of 71.2 percent Negroes, the Civil Rights Bill has been ignored. There have been no moves on the part of the School Board to initiate any plans for desegregation of the public schools.

Today, September 3, 1964, we, the citizens of Madison County, intend to register our children at Canton High School because it is our constitutional right to do so and because Negro schools do not have adequate supplies. Curriculum isn't good enough to properly prepare our children for college, and classrooms are overcrowded. We feel that Canton High is better equipped and can provide a greater opportunity for our children to get a better education. We will use every legal means available to us at this time in order to exercise the right to an equal education for our children.

A.S.C. ELECTIONS

What it means

The A.S.C. County Committee gives you the chance to be equally represented. With a man on the committee you will be assured of a fair share in the crop allotments and its other services. The colored farmers in Madison County outnumber the whites three to one. We can win the election if we work together.

Eligibility

Any farm owner, tenant or sharecropper of legal voting age has the right to vote.

Election Procedures

1. There are eight Community Committees at present in Madison County.

2. Each Community Committee has five members:

   a) Chairman
   b) Vice Chairman
   c) Regular Member
   d) First Alternate
   e) Second Alternate

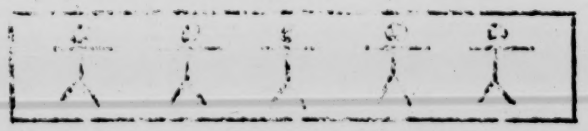
3. The Chairman of each Community Committee is a delegate to the County Convention.

County Convention

4. The delegates then choose the five members of the A. S.C. County Committee.

   a) Chairman
   b) Vice Chairman
   c) Regular Member
   d) First Alternate
   e) Second Alternate

A.S.C. County Committee



Duties of the County Committee and the Community Committees

The County Committee is responsible for local administration of acreage allotments and marketing quotas, the Agricultural Conservation Program, the Conservation Reserve, price-support loans and purchase agreements, stabilization programs and diversion payments, storage, and other ASCS activities. The Community Committees will assist the County Committee when requested to do so.

A.S.C. ELECTIONS

Here is the way we will win:

A pre-election meeting will be held in each of the communities. At the meeting the farmers will elect a man who they think will best serve as community chairman.

We will put the man on the official slate of candidates by petition. The petition requires the signature of six farmers in each community.

When you receive the official ballot, you should vote for the man nominated in your community. If you vote for white candidates, it will only split the Negro vote.

Your ONE VOTE FOR ONE MAN is valid and legal.

Protection

The election procedures are carefully supervised by the county and state A.S.C.S. offices. The election is federal. Any attempt at discrimination, by way of economic and physical threats, will not be tolerated.

There are top men in Washington who are very interested in the election. They know of the Farmers' League and its importance to Negroes, not only in Madison County, but in all of Mississippi. If there is an attempt to tamper with the election procedures, the election will be declared void and a new election will be called.

BLACKOUT

$ = ¢

RECENTLY A NEGRO MAN WAS LED OUT OF A PEACE STREET DPT. STORE BY POLICE (WHO CLAIMED HE WAS AN ESCAPEE FROM A PRISON FARM) AND BADLY BEATEN TILL HE BLED.

WILL WE CONTINUE TO SHOP IN THESE STORES AFTER RECEIVING SUCH TREATMENT?

WILL WE CONTINUE TO PUT money in the WHITE MAN'S POCKET SO THEY CAN SUPPORT FORCES WORKING against us?

WILL WE CONTINUE TO SUPPORT THE MEN WHO REFUSE TO LET OUR CHILDREN GO TO A DECENT SCHOOL, WHO REFUSE TO LET US VOTE?

HOW LONG WILL SLAVERY LAST?

IT'S UP TO YOU!!!!

SUPPORT THE BLACKOUT!!

KEEP OFF DOWNTOWN CANTON STR.'S,
STAY OUT OF BLACKLIST STORES

$ FREEDOM NOW

(¢) STAY OUT $

Council Of Federated Organizations

September 16, 1964

Dear Mr. [illegible]ley,

Enclosed is a petition which was sent to the School Board of [illegible] County last week. George thought you might want a copy. He is taking the parents of the children who attempted to attend Canton High last week into Jackson for a formal appointment with Carsie Hall. They, of course, will ask Carsie to handle the case in Court.

Please excuse the typing on that petition, but the one decent typewriter in this office broke down in the middle of the petition. I wrote to Mary Richmond asked for a decent typewriter, Maybe you could help us on that. In the weekly reports coming in tomorrow I stated that a typewriter was not a number one need, DISREGARD THAT MISGUIDED STATEMENT..

I hope this letter finds you in good health. George, Mrs. Devine and I send you our regards.

Yours In Freedom,

Mary Ann Shupenko

Mary Ann Shupenko

of our children, do hereby petition and request that, within one week herof, a hearing be granted whereby the matters and requests stated below may be discussed and peacefully resolved.

1. On Tuesday, September 1, 1964, certain of us and of our children personally appeared at Canton High School and Canton Junior High School and requested that our said children be permitted to transfer to the said Canton Schools. At that time, those so appearing were instructed to return on Thursday, September 3, 1964, which, school officials said, was the proper date to apply for such transfers.

2. On September 3, 1964, certain of us and our children personally appeared at the said schools, and requested that the said children be permitted to transfer to the said schools. Our said children then completed the proper applications for such a transfer and our said children were then told to return to their former schools pending consideration by you of the applications for transfer.

3. By Tuesday, September 8, 1964, the date on which regular school sessions were to commence for the academic year 1964-1965, you had failed to advise the said applicants of your decision regarding the said application for transfer filed with you on September 3, 1964. Accordingly, certain of us and our children again personally appeared at the said schools requesting that our said children be admitted thereto as transfer students. At that time, a school official refused to admit our said children to the said schools as transfer students and our said children were told to return to their former schools.

School are now, and have always been, restricted to use by children of the Caucasian or white race. Such a segregated school system is inherently unfair and discriminatory to our said children and results in our said children obtaining an education which is inferior to that obtained by the white children of Madison County thereby denyting to our children the equal protection of the law guaranteed to them by the Constitution of the United States.

5. In light of the foregoing facts, it is hereby requested that all of the public schools of Madison County be promptly and completely desegregated in accordance with the 1954 Supreme Court decision in Brown v. Board of Education forbidding such segregation in public schools and that all children in all grades be permitted to attend such schools as each such child may choose. Although ten years ahve passed since the said decision, public school education in Madison County continues on a segregated basis in violation of the constitutional rights of ourchildren as guaranteed by the Fourteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution. The Supreme Court placed the obligation upon local school officials to implement desegregation in public schools, which duty you have not met.

We respectfully request that an immediate reply to this petition be given and a date be set for a hearing to be held one week hereof, to discuss and resolve these requests.

Citizens and Parents of Madison County

dated: September 11, 1964
Canton, Mississippi

PROJECT REPORT

ect Canton - Madison

tion Canton, Mississippi

rvisor George Raymond

Date 9-16-64

Reporter Annie Devine

ITEM	EVALUATION	RECOMMENDATION
Program activities		
a. Voter registration	very slow Summer & Harvest Season - deterent to voter act	
b. Voter education	Hopefully adult training can be administered through O.E. program.	
c. Freedom Schools	Community Center shows some need	
d. Community Center	Open house monday night kids interest real high	Help supply info on legal steps to take to secure bonding permit
e. Fund-raising	political programs and O.C.	use your influence to help ensure that other National figures are invited to attend this affair
f. Legal assistance		
g. Other Eric Ore is leaving. should be replaced immediately	Federal programs - I deal for Madison County	
Community awareness	This program can really do the community the most and other program we are dealing with Fair to good	more for the immediate needs p
Co-operation from white community	None	
Intimidation, etc.	leaving None this week except James Bennett's caravan pulled in by police and is being held because of an old. grocery debt made in 1947 or 1948 and the man is trying to collect his money.	
Justice Department, FBI action		

Dave Dennis

STAFF MEETING HELD AT CANTON FREEDOM HOUSE 9-21-64

George Raymond chaired the meeting.
PRESENT WERE: Bill Curtis, Myrtis Evans, Milton Pickett, George Raymond, Tom Phoner, Charles Prichett, Sears Buckley Jr., Martha Wright, Maren Duncan, Joe Lee Watts, Don Ramsey, JoAnn Coiman, Marcellus Byrd, Nancy Jervis, C.C. Chinn Jr., Sally Shiedler, Eric Orr, Judy Orr, Phil Sharp, Mrs. A. Devine, Rev. J. McCree, Judy Hampton, Arlene Bock & Mary Ann Shuponic.

THERE WAS NO STAFF MEETING AT THE CANTON HOUSE AT 9:00- Individual projects reports from every person are due then.

AGENDA

1. Job Description
2. Freedom Rally, October 3rd.
3. Freedom Day, October 5th.
4. Organizations of precincts
5. Organization of Block Captain system
6. Voter Registration & Freedom Registration activities
7. Problems dealing with projects
8. Finance
9. ASC Elections and recruiting
10. Freedom Schools
11. Assignments

The Freedom Democratic Party Rally is coming up. We have 15 precincts which must be organized by this date.

COMMITTEE OF HER

JoAnn Coiman, Sally Shiedler, Arlene Bock, Martha Wright, and George Johnson are the staff. At least 3 of these people will be here every day from nine in the morning till 3 in the afternoon. During the day all available staff must start organizing precincts in Flora (the Southern section of the County) This must be organized by people working out of the Canton office. There are eight precincts in this portion, a workshop schedule and agenda should be set up by Monday. The same thing goes for the people working in Valley View who will be handling the Northern section of the County. They have 7 precincts to organize. By next week meetings should be set up for Mrs. Devine to speak at. We cannot promise that she will appear at every one, however, she will try. So there is no confusion, The people setting up speaking arrangements for here in the Northern part of the county will set up meetings on odd days of the month. The Southern section of the county will set up speaking days for Mrs. Devine on even days of the month.

Tomorrow morning (9-22-64) the following people will hold a meeting in Canton to make plans for organizing the Southern section of the County. They will also discuss and decide the block captain system. Minutes of this meeting must be turned in to me (1103) by Wednesday morning. Arlene Bock, Jo Ann Coiman, Sally Shiedler, Martha Wright, George Johnson, Don Ramsey, Tom Foner, Eric Orr, Judy Orr, Rev. McRee, and Mrs. Devine and Joe Lee Watts must be present for this meeting. The staff in Valley View will hold a similar meeting dealing with the Northern

section of the county. Minutes must be turned in by Wednesday.

FREEDOM SCHOOL AND VOTER REGISTRATION

Martha Wright is in charge of this. Freedom schools will be held during the evenings from 7-9 p.m. Three nights a week 2 teachers will be sent out into the rural and two nights a week school will be held in Canton. Gluckstadt and Flora will definitely have Freedom Schools (must find a place, however.) Pilgrim Rest has expressed an interest in having their church used for this activity so that will be checked out immediately. Comm. Center programs take care of all C.C. staff at night, there are no extra people. There may also be an adult literacy class started. By Friday of this week, a report must be in my office concerning the schedules and people used for the Freedom Schools.

A week from this Wednesday, a report is due from the people organizing precincts in the Northern and Southern sections of the county. Included must be the names of the 15 precinct chairmen, their names addresses, and phone numbers, and a starting schedule set up of workshops--the times and places.

We must work quickly and effectively, because soon after Madison County is organized the same people will travel into Scott and Rankin county to do the same organizing work.

The Community Center at Valley View is being set-up and re-opened by Phil Sharp.

VALLEY VIEW STAFF

Maron Duncan, Phil Sharp, Nancy Jervis, Charles Prickett, and Judy Hampton and Andrew Green. Bill Forsythe may be coming back within/ two weeks.

Martha Wright is to gather all necessary information on the coming one day school boycott and get it to staff people as soon as possible.

Tomorrow night in Jackson there will be a meeting of Andrew Green, Valley View staff, George Raymond and myself. All project problems will be worked out then.

Finances cannot be discussed until tomorrow nights meeting with Dave Dennis and myself.

Mary Ann will type a list of all coming events during Oct. and November and distribute them to staff and interested local people who are involved. The tentative list I have is as follows: October 3 - FDP Freedom Rally---October 4- Mass meeting--Oct. 5, Freedom Day in Canton involving all of Madison County. Oct. 11, meeting at Milton Grove at 3:00-purpose is to rebuild the two burned Churches. Nov. 3, Election Day, Johnson, Humphrey, Mrs. Devine; Nov. 3, ASC Initial slate, all white candidates; Nov. 18, Second slate of candidates for ASC, our men. Dec. 3, ASC election, Dec. 25---Christma.
THERE ARE FIVE BEATS IN MAD. CO. COMPRISING 15 PRECINCTS.

After the precincts are organized, the precinct chairman will be responsible for sending at least 5 people a day to the Courthouse.

FOURTH DISTRICT FREEDOM RALLY, OCTOBER 3, 1964--ALL STAFF MUST BE AVAILABLE AND ON HAND FOR THIS DAY. Booths must be built for registration centers and information centers.

Mrs. Devine, Rev. McRee, Karen Duncan and myself will see to it that the program and agenda is ready and printed by the Rally.

Martha Wright, Eric Orr, Mrs. Devine, and Rev. McRee will get together and draft a letter to every white person in the project. It will state and discuss facts and relations between the black and white community. It should be turned in to my desk by Fridday, so I can prepare it to be mailed in Monday's mail. Once they get it, they will more than likely read it.

NEWSLETTER--Editing Staff consists of C.O. Chinn Jr. (Editor) Tom Ramsey, Rev. McRee, Martha Wright and Charles Prickett.

All local peopl e should be encouraged to write articles on their feeling, ideas and beliefs. Mrs. Devine will also have a column, and local leaders in the movement and staff people will be allowed to submit articles. It must be understood that all articles can be edited and that not every one must be published. The articles must be in to my office by 3:00p.m. Friday afternoon- The paper will be ready for distribution Sunday morning at the Churches. It will go under the old newsletter heading THE CITIZEN. If we decide to put out a monthly paper, Miss Hazie Benton Smith in Jackson will do the printing for us. These articles must be halfway intelligent with a deal of facts. Not completely emotional saop-box stuff.

The Madison County Movement must be identified with local people-We must draw in local people, involve them, get them to act. The Monday night meetings at Pleasent Green should be rejuvenated. Interest must be built up.

When a person is assigned a task, they must do it--or they can be replaced. Everyone here is a campaign manager for Mrs. Devine. I will start assembling info on her opposing man, Arthur Winstead. NOTE* MEDICAL COMMITTEE DOCTORS CANNOT TREAT LOCAL PEOPLE, IT IS AGAINST THE RULES. ALSO, WE CANNOT AFFORD LAWYERS, FINES OR BONDS FOR PEOPLE WHO ARE IN NO WAY CONNECTED WITH THE MOVEMENT. THIS OFFICE IS NOT A FREE MEDICAL OR LEGAL ASSISTANCE COMMITTEE.

George Johnson is responsible for meeting with me by 3:00p.m. Thursday and getting out blackout leaflets, he will also take a group of young men(no minors) into downtown Canton this week-end wearing CORE shirts. It was generally agreed that this does have an effect on keeping local Negroes out of town. George is also responsible for helping Martha work in the C.C.

Martha Wright will make out a map of Canton showing public acc. and utilites by Friday, we can use this in time.

NOTE: WE HAVE NO MONEY TO BAIL PEOPLE OUT OF JAIL....

WORK CAMPAIGN, connected with ASC man Hodges, have local comm. kids get together and start up a clean-up campaigns in the neighborhoods. WELFARE, the Movement cannot take care of and support local people. Priority comes to those working in the movement and those who have tried to register. When our Welfare staff and Valley Views staff is organized, Dave Dennis is supposedly holding 2 tons of clothing etc. for us in Jackson.

ASS (Agricultural Stabilization Conservation Service) is holding elections on December 3. Two weeks before this, they must have several people to canvass and beat the bushes for the meeting. You do not have to be a registered voter to vote for a man on the ballot, you merely have to be a farmer. Federal programs people must get out a sketch of the 8 community boundaries and get it to Staff and involved local people. They should also have a short sketch describing people who are candidates for the ASC board. Transportation will be needed for organizing this election.

Eartis Crawford is coming here. Milton Pickett is going to Leake County. We should find high-school kids who have drivers licnences to canvass for u s.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

1. There will be no drinking of any kind in any public place in Madison County as f ar as staff people are concerned. This goes for project people who are just passing through this county, such as people from Leake Co. and from Jackson. If you are living in a dry county there should be no drinking in your private homes either. In Madison co. we may drink in our private homes if that is agreeable to everyone connected with the house. I will check for the drinking laws in Rankin and Scott County and have them posted.
2. There will be no familiarity shown in public between Negro and white project and local people. This causes nothing but trouble and gives girls a rotten reputation. It must stop.
3. Security must be tightened, sign out every place you go, never drive aalone at night whether you are Negro or white. Call in when you reach and when leaving your destination.

TALK UP THE MADISON COUNTY MOVEMENT MEETING EVERY SATURDAY MORNING AT ASBURY CHURCH AT 9:00 a.m. LOCAL PEOPLE MUST START ATTENDING THIS MEETING.

Taken and Submitted by
Mary Ann Shupenko

C O R E SOUTHERN REGIONAL OFFICE
2211 Dryades Street
New Orleans, Louisiana 70113
523-7204

September 1, 1964

Mrs. Annie Devine
COFO
838 Lutz Avenue
Canton, Mississippi

Dear Mrs. Devine:

You spoke to me recently of a need for a speaker sometime in September. However, I don't remember any details about this engagement. Would you please fill me in on this at once; then I can make the necessary steps. I will work as fast as I can, and keep you informed as well as I can.

Sincerely,

Richard Haley
Southern Regional Director

RH/ds

C O R E SOUTHERN REGIONAL OFFICE

2211 Dryades Street

New Orleans, Louisiana 70113

523-7204

September 21, 1964

Mr. George Raymond
838 Lutz Street
Canton, Mississippi

Dear George,

I recently received a letter from Ben Brown in the CORE National Office. You probably are aware of some of the work done by the Southern Education Project, a group of volunteers who have collected books, typewriters and other equipment to send to the south. SEP has still more plans for the future, and ask our help in order to bring these plans to fruition. I will quote directly from Ben's letter to give you some idea of what he wants.

"The CORE Southern Education Project is planning on getting out a brocure which will tell our supporters about our efforts here and about the results in the deep south. This brocure will be used for promotional work in the expanding program of CSEP. For this brocure we need pictures from Meridian, Canton, Jackson, Plaquemine and other areas where CORE is setting up Community Centers. This appeal is being made to you because efforts in the past to secure pictures have been fruitless. Please help us in whatever way you can."

Ben also said in the letter that CSEP is presently undertaking a drive to obtain small economical cameras for all of our Task Force workers. I'm sure you'll agree withme that it is very much to our advantage to help the people in this project, because they have been of real help to us many times in the past and give promise of continuing help of the most practical nature.

Send your pictures to Benjamin A. Brown, Chairman, CORE Southern Education Project, 38 Park Row, New York.

Sincerely,

Richard Haley

RH/ds

C O R E SOUTHERN REGIONAL OFFICE

2211 Dryades Street

New Orleans, Louisiana 70113

523-7204

September 18, 1964

Mrs. Annie Devine
838 Lutz Street
Canton, Mississippi

Dear Mrs. Devine,

Thank you for the invitation to The Bonanza. I am scheduled to attend a Consumers Conference in Atlanta on that date. It is unlikely I can be there unless there is a change in my schedule. But if I can change it, I will.

I received your reports. Will comment later.

Sincerely,

Richard Haley

RH/ds

COFO
838 Lutz St.
Canton, Miss.
September 9, 1964

Dear Mr. Haley,

The Madison County Movement, as part of the Fourth District, in cooperation with COFO is sponsoring a massive Freedom Rally, THE BONANZA OF CIVIL RIGHTS STARS, here in Canton on October Third. This is a rally for the Freedom Democratic Party.

During this coming Fall, we are planning a stepped-up program of all Civil Rights activities here in Canton, the Rally on October Third will be used as a starting spark to the fuse now being prepared. Immediately following this on October Fifth, we will be holding a Freedom Day.

We hope to engage Mr. Dick Gregory as our main speaker accompanied by such people as yourself. We sincerely hope you will be able to join us on this day as a platform guest. We should also like to know if it would be possible for you to spend a day or two before or after the rally with us. There are several locations in the Fourth District (Canton, Philadelphia, Meridian etc.) where speaking arrangements can be made for you. All necessary accomodations would be made for you by our office.

The Rally will be held at Mr. Derron's farm in rural Madison County. If there is any further information you require on this coming event do not hesitate to write us. Please reply at your earliest convenience.

HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!

Yours In Freedom,

Mrs. Annie Devine

Mrs. Annie Devine
Chairman

ajw/mj

a national organization with affiliated local groups working

CONGRESS OF RACIAL EQUALITY
CORE

to abolish racial discrimination by direct, nonviolent methods

Canton

38 PARK ROW
NEW YORK 38, NEW YORK
COrtlandt 7-6270

October 15, 1964

James Farmer
national director
Richard Haley
associate
Gordon Carey
assistant
Carl Rachlin, Esq.
general counsel

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James Baldwin
Roger N. Baldwin
Katrina M. Barnes
Algernon D. Black
James B. Carey
Allan Knight Chalmers
Grenville Clark
John Cogley
Earl B. Dickerson
Eugene E. Frazier
Harold Gibbons
Roland B. Gittelsohn
Sidney Hollander
George M. Houser
E. Stanley Jones
Bishop F. D. Jordan
Martin Luther King
Douglas Levin
David Livingston
Will Maslow
A. J. Muste
Dorothy Norman
A. Philip Randolph
Ira DeA. Reid
Walter P. Reuther
Hobson R. Reynolds
Jackie Robinson
Arnold M. Rose
Fred M. Shuttlesworth
Lillian Smith
C. K. Steele
Gardner Taylor
Howard Thurman
Bishop W. J. Walls
Goodwin Watson
Joseph Willen
Jerry Wurf
Charles S. Zimmerman

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Alan Gartner
treasurer
James Peck
CORElator editor

STAFF
Norman Hill
program director
James McCain
director of organization
Marvin Rich
community relations director

Mr. Richard Haley
c/o CORE
2211 Dryades St.
New Orleans, La.

Dear Mr. Haley,

Enclosed are the gas receipts from our Credit Card here in Canton. The card no. is 317 880 571 3. The receipts cover approximately two months.

As you may have noticed, the weekly reports are two weeks behind. This is due to the absolute rush we've been in preparing for the Fourth District Rally and the Freedom Day on the third and fifth of October respectively. Our regular office work was left behind; I'm finally catching up on it. George will have the reports in within a week. Take care.

Y ours In Freedom,

Mary Ann Shupenko

Mary Ann Shupenko
Office Manager
Canton

1
Carton

C O R E SOUTHERN REGIONAL OFFICE

2209 Dryades Street

NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA 70113

November 24, 1964

Mr. George Raymond Jr.
838 Lutz Street
Carton, Mississippi

Dear George,

Thanks very much for your informative letter of recent date. There are several items in this letter which require questions on my part, rather than suggestions. Up to this time I have not received very much information from you about the operation of the Madison County Farmers League.

There's the matter of legal guidance, for instance. I don't know how you determine that you need two weeks of legal assistance; I suspect two days would be sufficient if you know where the trouble spots are. I was under the impression that the COFO legal advisor was brought in on a full time basis precisely fro handling such matters as this. If such is not the case, please advise. If necessary, you could bring a representative group from the Farmers League to New Orleans to consult with Collins, Douglas and Elie.

The lawyers will be prepared to go over with the League representatives such things as these: What is the purpose of the co-op? What are the State laws regarding the chartering of a co-op? What are the legal responsibilities of the organization to the State? To the community? To its own members? What are its protections? What assistance can it receive from the federal government? There are questions for which you should have at least a partial answer even before seeing a lawyer. The lawyer would be able to clarify the answers further.

There is another area of inquiry that must be investigated: the business aspect of the co-op. What is the purpose of the supply house, for instance? What community need does it fill? Does the co-op have enough members that the supply house will be a profitable operation? I think the National Sharecroppers Fund would be willing to send a consultant to go over this whole plan with you. In that regard write to Jac Wasserman, 5 Forsyth Street N. W., Atlanta, Georgia.

On the ASCF election---I almost get the feeling that no one but you is interested. As I told you in Jackson, it seems to me that persons who are running for office will be anxious to lend their support, including their cars. It's a simple exchange: they have the cars, we have the workers. Put them together to work for their benefit not ours. That

should not be such a hard program to sell. This is the same thing we have been talking about a great deal for a long time---developing community leadership.

One other question. To what extend are Negro farmers in Madison County now using Federal Programx? I'd like to have such particularies as are available.

I expect to be in Madison County sometime shortly after Thanksgiving. Hope to see you then.

Sincerely,

Richard

RH/vjr

...onal organization with affiliated local groups working

CONGRESS OF CORE RACIAL EQUALITY

to abolish racial discrimination by direct, nonviolent methods

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CORElator editor

STAFF
Norman Hill
program director
James McCain
director of organization
Marvin Rich
community relations director

Canton

November 20, 1964

Mr. Richard Haley
c/o CORE
2211 Dryades St.
New Orleans, La.

Dear Richard,

The Madison County Farmer's League has finally received its incorporation papers. The importance of this in terms of economic control of the county is unbelievable. The two projects the Farmer's League are now embarking on are:

1. Supply House
2. Cotton Gin

Once these two things are established and the working plans become a reality we can control the county and its economic makeup. This coupled with the outcome of the ASC elections will break this county wide open.

Because the people we are closely involved and working with are lacking a certain amount of education; they in turn lack the ability to really attempt to set up a co-operative. They don't know how to cope with the state and government authorities and are in danger of loosing their incorporation.[1]

This is business. Nothing like this has ever happened in this state. We don't know how to set up this thing. We need someone for at least two weeks for legal guidance. Then we need someone to manage and keep it going (Do you know anyone?) After three months they could be making $5000 a year gradually building up to $10,000 as the supply house gains more power.

1. Upon receiving incorporation papers from Secretary of State Ladner, and from the attorney general they stated to Otha Williams, president of the Farmer's League, "if you tie up this organization with any Civil Rights work we are going to take it away from you".

The Farmer's League can project the image of the movement into the community and into the state; it can skyrocket. It's that important, and now we are in jeapoddy of loosing what we've worked so hard for.

Following is a brief outline on the Farmer's League:

BUSINESS RELATIONS WITH THE WHITE COMMUNITY

The white merchants showed little interest or respect for the dignity of their Negro customers. The black man got exactly what he paid for in goods and services, almost none of the cordial treatment that one should legitimately expect in the conduct of business. Prices were too high in most of the white establishments; in many instances a black man had to trade on credit for almost the entire year and ended up after his crops were in, out of debt but incapable of starting the new years growing without first going back into debt with the same white man. In many cases the white used business relations with the black community as a tool to control the actions of the Negro. Otha Williams, one of the most dynamic of the people gathered at these first meetings, was eventually forced to carry his cotton out of the county to have it ginned.

During the discussions it became evident that most of the negro farmers present felt that if they had their own sources of supplies and if they owned their own gin, their lots would be greatly improved, both in pure business terms and, more important, in terms of self respect and commanding the respect of the white community. They were being financially scalped by their white "brothers" who seemed also, because they could get away with it, to lack any fundamental understanding of the need for dignity in the daily conduct of people's lives.

CONDUCT OF FEDERAL PROGRAMS

As the discussions were continued there developed a growing source of concern with the manner in which federal officials in Madison County conducted themselves. There was a conviction (later proved to be substantially correct) that the programs of the federal government were being operated primarily for the benefit of the white farmers. Little or no information about the federal governments activities had seeped down from the officials in the county courthouse to the small farms operated by these men. Again, when they did have contact with the local federal officials, meetings were lacking the respect that an employer should show toward those who pay his salary.

The farmers decided to form an organization, The Madison County Farmers League, in an attempt to do something about the two areas of concern that became clear in the discussions. The Farmer's League was to have two main purposes: 1) To form a cooperative for the construction of a supply house and cotton gin and; 2) To diseminate information about programs the federal government carried out for the benefit of farmers in the Madison County area.

The cooperative has received its charter from the state of Mississippi and is presently selling stock to raise money for the construction of a supply house which they hope to have constructed by the first of the March. They have already collected $2,600 of the needed $15,000. Feelers are presently being sent out for a manager who we hope to hire by the first of January.

Out of the federal information program grew a concern with and determination to win the county Agricultural Stabilization and Control Board elections. The ASC regulated the production of farmers who grow cotton, grain, hay, soy beans or feed corn. It determines how much acreage each farmer is entitled to, measures his land after planting to make sure that he has complied with the allotment given to him, and pays him his price and support payments when prices fall below parity at selling time. Each county board is selected by representatives from local communities who are chosen in an election held early in December.

The Madison County Board is filled with white men and, up until this year when the Negro has been encouraged to vote it has been when two white men were fighting with each other for power in a community. This year we have selected our own candidates. We presently expect to win in six of the eight communities in Madison County.

Read paragraphs 1,2,3, and 4 and section 2 carefully -- the importance of this is great. We can control the economics of the state. This can stimulate a whole new movement. On the ASC elections, I want absolutely no publicity before December 3rd., the election date. On that date and after is enough time to start the publicity wheels rolling.

Well Dick, I really wish this was a conversation rather than a letter because I could relate and get through to you by speaking, the real feelings I want transmitted to you may not have come out.

The following facts and needs cannot be put off or denied:

1. Possibility of loosing ASC elections because of lack of finances and transportation and a huge margin of fear.

2. Possiblility of loosing corporation because of lack of legal guidance; lack of person with proper qualifications who can come to this state and work as manager of the corporation.

OUR FAVOR: No more water, but fire next time.

Brothers In The Struggle,

George Raymond Jr.

George Raymond Jr.
Canton

GRjr/mcs

cc sent to: Marv Rich

November 13, 1964

Mrs. Annie Devine
Canton Project
838 Lutz Street
Canton, Mississippi

Dear Mrs. Devine,

I would like to know the exact number of people who are going to attend the staff conference. Please give the names, sex, and race. Also indicate which ones were examined by the doctor at Togaloo last summer. Send a carbon copy of your letter to Doctor Dave Levine, 10 West 15th Street, New York City 11, New York. This is very important please get this information at once. Thanks.

Sincerely,

Richard Haley
Southern Director

RH/ds

file with ans Canton

December 19, 1964

Mr. Richard Haley
c/o CORE
2211 Dryades St.
New Orleans, La.

Dear Richard:

I write this letter out of desperation and real need. As I explained to you in my letter of November 20, we need a person (preferably with knowledge and experience in managing a cooperative) to advise and assume the position of business manager for the Madison County Cooperative. This should become a long-term, salaried position.

You see, Richard, we don't have access to anyone who is experienced and can give the time we must demand. At this time the cooperative is young and Attorney General Patterson threatens to take away the incorporation papers if everything is not carried out according to Mississippi state law. The directors of the cooperative, because they have no experience at all in these matters, are bound to make serious errors if they are not provided with some expert aid in the very near future. So you see where we stand. HELP!

Please let me hear from you soon.

Brothers in the Struggle,

George Raymond, Jr.

George Raymond, Jr.
Canton

GRjr: jo

cc: Marvin Rich

CORE Southern Regional Office
2209 Dryades Street
New Orleans, Louisiana 70113
January 2, 1965

Mr. George Raymond
838 Lutz Street
Canton , Mississippi

Dear George,

Sometime ago I wrote you suggesting that it would be good for the representatives of the co-op to come to New Orleans to consult with our lawyer here, or else talk to the COFO lawyer. Ernest Chanes talk to some of the people involved--perhaps you--at some lenght at my request. One item he reported with some disappointment, and I share that disappointment also.

Chanes said that the co-op is set up in such a way that the larger stock holders have more v oting weight than the small ones. This could mean that a few people holding anything over 50 per cent of the stock, could ban together and run the co-op as they see fit. This is not typical co-op procedure, but more like the operation of a corporation. "One man, one vote" can be applied to a co-op just as much as to a local election. This problem could be worked out with legal assistence. I think also that the matter of directors who ars really interested and active in the co-op could also be worked out by legal consultation.

It would be well to consider the source pf the salary for the long time business manager whom you suggest. I assume the co-op is prepared to pay such a salary, but it would be well to know how much they are able to pay. You will be surprised how suddenly experienced people become available once it is known that there is a living wage involved.

I suggest, then, that your first step is to arrange an appointment with Collins, Douglas & Elie or some other lawyer. Then try to determine whether it is a business manager or an accountant that you need most. I cannot help wondering at this point what the business manager would manage.

I will write to you shortly on other items; hope all went well with through the holidays.

Sincerely,

Richard Haley
Southern Director

RH/ds

838 Lutz
Canton, Mississippi
January 25, 1965

Mr. Richard Haley
CORE
2209 Dryades
New Orleans, Louisiana

Dear Mr. Haley:

At Dick Jewitt's suggestion the Canton staff sat down this afternoon to evaluate our experiences at the New Orleans meetings. The general feeling was one of disappointment and dissatisfaction with the meetings. Specifically we weredisturbed by the superficial nature of most, if not all, discussions: such crucial matters as the summer project, the CORE-COFO relationship, the sources of authority existent in that relationship, the merits and problems presented by the MFDP all call for far more probing than we even began to give them. We also share Mrs. Devine's feeling that what Jerome Smith had to offer was very valuable. Perhaps better scheduling could have avoided his having to crowd it all into a few brief minutes.

Then, too, we would like to offer some criticism of the resource persons set-up. The ideal would have been to have someone like Saul Alinsky around. Is there a chance that we might be able to have several days of continuous discussion with such a person sometime? Barring that, we hope that future speakers might prove of somewhat higher quality than the gentleman who presented the anti-poverty bill to us. Also, we question the effectiveness of using CORE "high officials" as workshop leaders. This time at least curiosity, the desire to know and be known tended to get in the way of discussion of the questions at hand.

Another problem, which is probably more COFO's than CORE's in this case, is that of timing. We had just spent three days in meetings in Harmony, Mississippi and came to New Orelans feeling rather talked out and sore-seated, besides which our work here went too long neglected. The couple days' interim between meetings was hardly long enough to really get into the community and now there's some trouble reestablishing contact with what was happening before Harmony. Finally, we recommend better planning and further consideration of the role local people can play in meetings of this type. They should represent all areas represented at the meetings and staff should take special carein asking for local peoples' opinions that the "proper answer" is not implicit in the request for the opinions. Then, too, the local people should be prepared for the discussions in which they'll be expected to participate so that they can avoid suffering from a feeling of being put on the spot unexpectedly.

But all this is not to say that we're sorry the meetings occurred. Such gatherings are important for us and we hope

that they will continue, improving as they go.

In Freedom,

JoAnn Coiman

JoAnn Coiman
Canton CORE

cc: Dick Jewitt

To: CORE Southern Regional Office
From: Canton CORE

Date: February 7, 1965
Re: The Canton Project, January 25-February 8, 1965

PERSONNELL CHANGES

Charney Bromberg has returned to the east coast to continue his studies at Harvard.
Karen Duncan (task force) will not return from California where she was vacationing; she,too, is returning to school.
George Jalbert (volunteer) has decided to leave the project c.Feb. 15.
Dean Zimmerman (volunteer) will leave the project in about a month to return to school.

Sandra Watts will return from her vacation in the coming week; she is working in Rankin County (task force)
Judy Hampton and Phil Sharp just returned from their vacations (both volunteer)
Gregg Finger will be joining the staff in a week or two, bringing with him a car for Rankin County
Bill Forsyth (volunteer) and JoAnn Ooiman(task force) will leave for the north Feb. 8 for about a month of speaking mixed with vacationing.

CANTON FREEDOM HOUSE

Still recuperating from the smash-up he had with his Jeep, and unable to work for more than short stretches in the field, Bill Forsyth has been working in the office on a chronological outline of the project's history; he has the two main sections completed: violence and intimidation; events surrounding voter registration (the first excludes the second). When it is completed and duplicated, copies will be sent to the Southern and New York offices.

A unique visitor has beenfrequenting the house, one Ida Langford, 27 year old white Canton woman. She is a widow and the mother of two boys, both in elementary school. She claims to be taking a stand for integration and expresses determination to "convert" such people as Billy Noble ("Madge Noble is one of my best friends."). It's difficult at this point to evaluate her. There are good reasons for suspecting that she's an infiltrator; other good ones for believing in her sincerity; and still others for assuming that she's just crazy. We're keeping a conversation by conversation, episode,by episode record of her relations with us and are watching with interest to see XXXX how a wealthy, spoiled, outspoken southern white woman reacts to poor, scroungy, suspicious civil rights workers. She has agreed to testify in the hearings for the congressional challenge; she made a tape for the MFDP lawyers which they are thinking of playing before Congress. For her own protection and because we don't wholly trust her mental soundness at this point, she's not a good object of publicity, even though she seems to have rather thoroughly announced her activities to all her friends and did write an article in one of the enclosed CITIZEN's.

THE CONGRESSIONAL CHALLENGE

Lawyers came to Canton January 20 to begin lining up witnesses and digesting information for the depositions. The first hearing was set for January 26. The city officials had agreed to open the courtroom in the courthouse to us and Foote Campbell, local registrar, was to have been the first witness. On the morning of the 26th the lawyers stopped by to pick up the Negro notary public

who had agreed to "officialize" the proceedings. He refused to go to the courthouse, saying that Jack Young, Jackson attorney, had advised him not to appear. At the courthouse six attorneys were present for the state, including ex-Governor Coleman . Coleman immediately objected to the absence of Jones and asked the MFDP lawyers why Jones was not present. MFDP refused to give details. Coleman announced, then, that during their 40 days of deposition, "we will take a deposition from H.A. Jones...." Coleman and his fellow lawyers refused to have testimony taken without the notary; the hearings were called off.

A new team of lawyers is in the county now; they have hearings scheduled to begin February 8. This time the opposition has agreed to supply the notary and a local judge, Judge Sandige, will officiate in that position. Friendly witnesses will testify Monday-Wednesday. Thursday and Friday is unfriendly witnesses day This weekend has been spent in the quite satisfying occupation of serving subpoenae on the white power structure, Gus Noble, President of the Citizens Council; Billy Noble deputy sheriff, High Sheriff Jack Cauthen; chief of police Dan Thompson (George Raymond served that one to the chief as he sat drinking coffee in the Mecca Cafe, a white-only place!). A number of ~~XXXXXX~~ attornies and businessmen will be examined,too. All-in-all 28 subpoenae were served on Friday and Saturday.

THE ASCS ELECTIONS CHALLENGE

USDA is doing a real snow job on the election irregularities that occurred December 3. Congressman John Lindsay tells us that "In general, they felt that they had made progress this year, that the elections were more equitably run than in past years, and that in many cases election supervisors had leaned over backwards to be fair to Negroes." The department of agriculture also put out a bulletin in which Freeman claims that "A strenuous effort was made to insure that every eligible voter was placed on the rolls in ASC offices and every effort was made to insure that these individuals were informed of the election." In a letter to Congressman Edwards (California) Freeman even took credit for encouraging Negro candidates in the election. Now, Marv Rich knows a little better maybe than the rest of us just how equitably run things were that day he collided with a belt buckle and flying stones. And any energy exerted before then to prevent violence and to insure that all eligible voters could vote and all eligible candidates could run did not come from Washington D.C. If it had come from there the wear and tear on us, our cars and our budget would have been considerably decreased. ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~ Of course we could assume that USDA did try to administer a fair election and was completely incompetent to do so. This assumption might easily be based on our experience with certain USDA investigators who have been making a pretence at looking into our complaints. Most of them seem reasonably intelligent, but one, a Mr. Crowe, who took up two full days of time and patience asking the same questions over and over again, clearly limited in both preparation and I.Q. not knowing even how to spell such words as "Illinois" and "coordinate" and unable to understand why George Raymond asked to see his doctor in jail ("was it because your doctor had told you not to have your beard shaved off?"), is a sorry indication of how seriously our protests have been taken.

COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION

Two communities in the county have rallied rather impressively around local problems lately. Community B (the Madison-Ridgeland area) has decided to do something about the condition of the roads there. Citizens of that community have submitted a petition with 25 signatures to the Beat Supervisor. If he does not respond by February 16 they will have a sit-in in his office. If he doesn't have a office, and they suspect he might not, they'll sit-in the County Supervisor's Office. Two women have committed themselves to sitting there for as long as necessary, to going to jail, and to staying there. In this same community 2 families have decided to add their signatures to the Madison County school desegregation suit. Such actions and decisions are a most impressive step forward in an area where terrorization has held on even after other areas of the state have begun to open up. George Jalbert, who has been working there, was, in fact, threatened twice last week by local "law enforcement officials," and was told to leave town.

Community G has also been the scene of nearly autonomous local act ivism. A school bus driver there was involved in an accident with a white man. The white man was at fault. But the bus driver was charged with reckless driving; and he was told by the Superintendant of Schools that he would lose his job. His fellow-drivers decided that they would refuse to drive any of the busses if this decision stood. The logical extension of this was that there would be no children at school, and parents and students decided they might as well get the most out of the situation and declare a school boycott. Such a boycott is occurring February 8; the youngsters will attend Freedom School instead and that school will be taught partially by local people.

The newest venture in organization here is into Scott County. Pat Packard moved in there last week, found living quarters and established several good contacts, some of whom George Raymond had set up earlier. Fear is very operative there, however, and it got the best of Pat's hostess so that she's now looking for new living quarters. But she's already met enough friendliness and encouragement there to feel that this is not too dire a set-back.

Madison County is making preparations for a county convention March 27. It will be planned and organized solely by local people and its main object will be to define what direction the movement here feels itself moving in and to evaluate the hows and whys of its moving. Delegates from each county and from the several sections of Canton will be elected to the meetings. This offers a good chance for local leadership to rally and replenish itself. Sentiment seems to be growing here for testing public accomodations. A meeting to discuss that Title of the Civil Rights Bill has been called for the evening of the 8th. It could be pretty good preliminary indicationof the nature and strength of the support for testing the Bill.

If anything of special note occurs between now and the next formal report we'll let you hear of it.

Freedom.

CORE SOUTHERN OFFICE
2209 Dryades Street
New Orleans, Louisiana 70113

February 22, 1965

Mr. George Raymond
838 Lutz Street
Canton, Mississippi

Dear George,

The Canton project report generated in me a feeling of which I have not often been accused---humility. It is the latest of a series of true-to-life stories from Canton, stretching back to those early days when you were a lone figure racing up and down the Mississippi countryside to test a library or hold a meeting or challenge a registrar or go to jail. I am struck---hence the humility---by the continued determination and aggressiveness of the people we are fortunate enough to have on the staff. Personnell has changed a dozen times but it seems that each one who leaves, leaves behind him some of the best parts of himself to be taken up by the one who succeeds him.

So much for sentimentality. I note that some[fool] named Gregg Finger will be joining the staff, bringing a car. As a matter of record, please include "vital statistics" about the car---serial number, motor no., license no., make and model. Also list other cars used on the project in the same way (You've probably done this a dozen times before; one more time, please.) Also include the numbers and locations of all gasoline credit cards presently in use. It is planned to send out new cards, using a new system, about March 1; the first step in this procedure is to know where all cards are so they may be collected and voided.

It is very important that you continue to keep regular and complete financial records; equally important that you include such a record in the report you send here. Since one was not included in the February 8th project report, please include a comprehensive record in the February 25th report.

At a meeting with representatives of the National Sharecroppers Fund recently, I met Art Emery. He works in Fayette County, Tennessee and is a "bug" on co-operative enterprise. He says the Negro farmers there already are operating a Diesel oil (I believe)co-op, and it seems that this has been brought about largely through his efforts. I believe he would be able to revive interest in the Madison County co-op if you feel it is worth the effort. I'll wait to hear from you on this.

Judy Nusbaum is/in<u>terested</u> knowing if her information sheets on federal programs, ett. have any utility in your program. I'm interested, too, because this is an item which was given high priority at some of our early conferences last fall. I'd like your comments on this.

In regard to summer program, it was reported to the last NAC meeting that this is still in the developmental stage in Mississippi, growing out of community meetings and group discussions, with staff taking as limited a role as possible. Accordingly it would be premature to present a"Mississippi summer program"at this point. However, this does not relieve the staff of the responsibility of planning

just how best its time is to be spent in the future. If, for instance, it seemed that now would be a good time for any community to "try its own wings", then that staff could be moved to some otherpplace. If staff should remain, then it should be determined just how to be most effective. Please be as specific as possible on this matter in your next report.

I'm assuming that you send a copy of each such report to Dick Jewett. If you're not, the fault is mine; I don't thing I ever made that point clear. Please do so in the future.

Pertinent points will be extracted from your reports for inclusion in a regular release from this office to all the projects; maybe we each can learn something from the others of us.

Sincerely,

Richard Haley
CORE Southern Director

RH/vjj

Canton

January 15, 1965

Mr. Richard Jewett
1714 Everett Avenue
Jackson, Mississippi

Dear Dick:

Charles Mason of Washington CORE called me Wednesday, January 13. He reported that the group from Canton in Washington for the FDP challenge was led by Randy Glenn and consisted mostly of high school age youngsters. The group stayed at Fellowship House until Monday, January 11. At that point, Fellowship House put them out. The staff felt that the high school age students should return to school rather than remain in Washington. The other FDP people had left for Mississippi on Wednesday, January 6. The Canton group spent the night of January 11 at Ralph Fertig's house in Washington.

On Tuesday, January 5, Randy Glenn called me and reported that bus and other transportation had broken down. National CORE sent him $400. as an emergency measure to provide return transportation. This money was probably spent in great part on food in Washington.

I understand that Randy and others tried to secure money from the Urban League, church groups and individuals. The staff at Fellowship House indicates that a number of liquor bottles were found on the premises.

Another CORE group from Neshoba County consisted of older adults and behaved in an exemplary manner.

Sincerely yours,

Marvin Rich, Director
Community Relatins

cc: Richard Haley
George Wiley

were blessed this week with the distribution of food and clothing sent to us by our good white friends in the North.

It would seem that we have many white friends in the North, but ver few in the South!

If the Movement is to succeed, we must cooperate with it. We must stay out of the boycotted stores. (A list of those stores on the boycot list can be gotten at the freedom house) If anyon has any ideas that would help us toward finding better jobs, human dignity and all our God given rights, please contact Freedom House. We must work togather for Freedom Now!

* * * * *

Editor's note: All of the fallowing are articles written for the CITIZEN by students who attended the Freedom Schools this summer.

FREEDOM SCHOOL BURNS
By Walter Bernard Saddler

This summer while attending the Freedom School I received some courses in Negro History, French and other subjects which have been very helpful to me since our school started this fall. About midsummer the school which was being used at Mt. Pleasant Church at the time burned to the ground one night. Since then we have been raising money to rebuild the building. I think there should be other activities going on as in other parts of the County because at least it brings the world's attention to the situation in Mississippi.

* * * * * *

CIVIL RIGHTS BILL SHOULD BE ENFORCED
By Norma Fields

What would I like to take place next now that the Civil Rights Bill has passed? Equal Facility. Although the Civil Rights has been passed, the enforcement hasn't taken place yet. One of the most important things that should happen is advancement and equal education facilities. We need more space in our public schools and more teachers. Next thing that should take place is higher wages and better jobs.

Since the Civil Rights Bill has passed I think that it should be put into action. Unless it is put to action it will be of no value to the Negroes through-out the state. The people are saying, and I quote "We have our Civil Rights" and unless we put this bill to work, we won't have any kind of rights. Not even Civil Rights.

poets in any language, founded the Kenyon Review, one of the best literary quarterlies ever published in the United States. John Hanson received the 1964 National Book award for poetry. John said, and I quote "we can only pay our debt to the past by putting the future in debt to ourselves.

* * * * * *

STUDNET WANTS PUBLIC ACCOMIDATION
By Barbara Taylor

How I would like to see the Civil Rights Bill implimented in Canton.

As a junior in highschool, I feel I have many wonderful years ahead of me. I would like to enjoy those years in a city where I can feel free to go to any respectable place and not be afraid of being throw out or arrested for unlawful assembly Our Civil Rights Bill has passed, but it won't mean a thing unless we show that we inted to use it. I can not think of a better place to start than the public accomodation section. This Bill won't change the hearts of men but it will surely make them think twice before going to any radical measures. We need pickets, sit-in demonstrations, voter registrations to let our white brothers know we mean business. For ourselves we need an education. Stay in school.

* * * * * *

ONE REASON WHY
By Gene McClendon

One reason why I think the Freedom Schools were a good project last summer is because of the many helps and understandings of the freedom movement which they gave us.

Another thing I think the movement in Canton should do is to test the civil Rights Bill now. And if it is possible to ask some of the White workers of the Freedom Movement to please come back as soon as possible to help us in our struggle.

* * * * * *

NOTICE

No more issues of the CITIZEN will be sent out of state unless postage money is received from subscribers. It is as if COFO is broke.

NOTICE

The CITIZEN will print articles submitted by any local citizen. We want your articles. Please write.

in Negro History, typing, English, and Dramatic acting in which we put on a short play. We also had a newspaper staff that published the school's paper. On the whole the school was nice, the teachers were very considerate and co-operative.

There have been many questions on what should happen next in Canton or Mississippi. The main thing that should take place is the Civil Rights Bill put into action. There has been no real action in the fulfullment of this Bill. The people of Canton and surrounding areas feel that there istoo much economic boycotts and not enough protesting for their equal rights as citizens and Free will to do as others do. If all people will take time to actually look, they will find out we are progressing very slowly in Canton. I'm not saying that boycotts don't hurt, because our country is based on capitalism. But the point is moredirect action is needed to gain, equal opportunities for all citizens. We must have non-violence.

I Too
By Langston Hughes

I, too, sing America.

I am the darker brother.
They send me to eat in the kitchen
when company comes,
But I laugh,
And eat well,
And grow strong.

Tomorrow,
I'll be at the table
When company comes.
Nobody'll dare
Say to me,
"Eat in the kitchen,"
Then.

Besides,
They'll see how beautiful I am
and be ashamed—

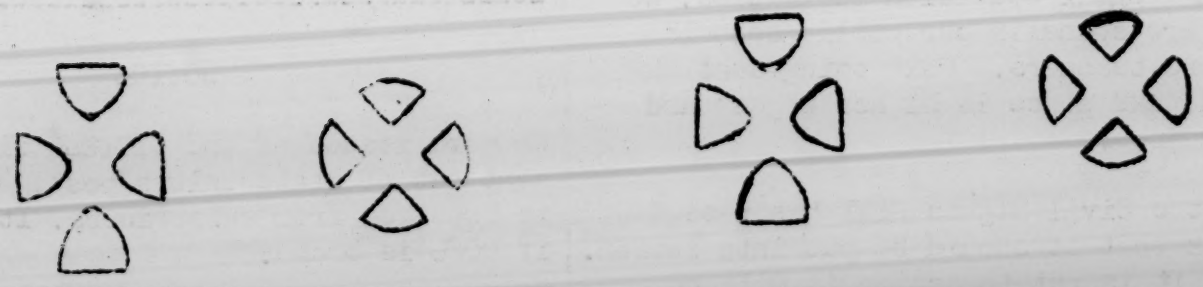
I, too am America.

Cross
By Langston Hughes

My old man's a white old man
And my old mother's black.
If ever I cursed my white old man
I take my curses back.

If ever I cursed my black old mother
And wished she were in hell,
I'm sorry for that evil wish
And now I wish her well.

My old man died in a fine big house.
My ma died in a shack.
I wonder where I'm gonna die,
Being neither white nor black?



T[illegible] County CITIZEN, J[illegible]ry 22, 1965
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T[illegible] CITIZEN [illegible] 3 Luth[illegible]ve.,
Canton, [illegible]. Editor: J. C. Ca[illegible], Jr.

THE MADISON COUNTY

CITIZEN

~~MARCH~~ February 5, 1965 C. O. CHINN, JR. - EDITOR

Editor's Note:

This question has been asked often by the Negroes of Madison County: When is COFO going to test the accomodation part of the Civil Rights Bill? COFO's policy is to do what the people want in the community. We say to you: fellow freedom-minded citizens, COME NOW. Come to Pleasant Green Church on Monday night at 7:00 P.M. We must get ou plans under way soon.

What I would like to see older pe ople do- by Girtie Mae Saddler

I am a twelve year old student, and this is what I'd like to see done by older people. I'd like to see more people get decent jobs; I'd like to see more eating with their white friends; I'd like to see more people behind the cash register in stores uptown. I also would like to see ma ny more people going downtown registering to vote.

In less words, and simple words, I would like to see more people testing our Civil Rights Bill.

Just having rights and not using them is no good. Use your privilege that you have.

YOU, and only YOU,
can
ENFORCE these rights.

****

DON'T FORGET!!!!

The selective buying campaign is on and is working. Vote for FREEDOM with your dollar.

****

The Truth
-anonymous

The graciousness and gentleness of our so-called Mississippi heritage that we are ta ught as Canton white children is now turning into a sadness akin to pain. We find that so much false pride exists, and it exists because the ones that taught us to be proud know and practice cruelty toward persons less fortunate than themselves or persons whose skin pigmentation differs from ours. We see that lack of self-confidence and weakness have made them vain. Hatred, I fear, has added to this toll. All of these traits tend to turn us away from a common love and a common need for each other. Sometimes I wonder if we have forgotten that God is the Lord of all creation. Man is not!

(Name withheld because I know this cannot be a truthful challenge.)

Our Mighty Hand

Dr. Martin Luther King, a native of Georgia, has had us in battle for the equal rights due to us. We have men like Jim Farmer who has visited Canton three times, Dave Dennis and George Raymond.

To many whites, these men mean sit-ins, prayer marches, overflowing jails and even violence by whites and Negroes. They are, indeed, well known people. They are like shepards, tending their flocks in the fields. They have done this through the development of non-violent resistance, which emphasizes love for the white man while refusing to co-operate with discrimination and segregation.

We are going to continue to preach and be threatened by death, but these men march on, for they, and others like them, are truly great. And, when and if the people they lead become violent, they say, "He who lives by the sword shall perish by the sword."

These men have been jailed, called liars, and those of them that have families have had the safety of these families threatened. They will not be satisfied until black and white, Jews and Gentiles, Protestants and Catholics be joined in hands and hearts and sing the song of Freedom: We're free at last, We're free at last, Thank God Almighty, We are free at last.

-by Doris Hill

****

Every Saturday morning, at Asbury Church on Cameron Street there is a meeting of the Madison County Movement. If you want something done, if you have something to say if you have a complaint to make, or if you are interested in what happens in Madison County, come to this meeting. This is your meeting, run by you, but it cannot do its job if you are not there!

He!

The Negro has been pushed
and pushed to a bitter end,

He never tries to defend

He lifts his eyes to God
and prays

He waits for that great
Glorious Day

He accepts all white hostility

He waits for the moment

He will be free!!!!

↑

These two poems were written by Cassandra R. Lowe.

↓

Poverty!

She was born in a ragged,
ragged old shack,

With hardly a rag to cover
her back,

Not even shoes to cover her
toes,

Is this because she is Negro?

****

Many of us remember what happened the last time we tried to take Depositions for the Congressional Challenge- Hercules Jones didn't show up, and the Mississippi lawyers walked out. Depositions will be taken NEXT WEEK:

March 8+9: Friendly witnesses
March 10 + 11: Unfriendly witnesses (including Foote Campbell)

This time there will be testimony taken. Come and see the fight to put your congresswoman, MRS. DEVINE, into office.

Depositions are taken at the County Courthouse.

Council Of Federated Organizations

Dear Richard,

Here it is.

George Raymond.

George Raymond

NO. _____ AMOUNT $ 25 00

RECEIVED OF PETTY CASH

January 25 19 65

FOR Expenses - Trip to New Orleans

CHARGE TO _____

_____

APPROVED BY John Doar RECEIVED BY Grace Collier

FORM NO. 2685 "THE EFFICIENCY LINE"

Canton.

COPY

838 Lutz Street
Canton, Mississippi
February 23, 1965

Dear Sir - Mr. James Farmer -

I have lost my job again and I need help again so will you please send me a check. You remember when I got a job I stop getting a check, but now I am working with CORE again with C.O. Chinn and George Raymond in Canton, Miss. where I live. I can't get a job here uhless I work for CORE and right now I need help. I have a wife and three children, so will you please put me back on payroll this week, please.

from: Marcellus Byrd

cc: Richard Haley, Dick Jewett, George Raymond

The above letter was received by us on February 26th. George Wiley would like you to check into the matter and report to him.

Mary McDowell

1 Canton

CANTON CORE, JANUARY, 1965
CANTON, MISSISSIPPI
GEORGE RAYMOND, DIRECTOR

POLITICAL PROGRAMS: The Freedom Vote

The MFDP attempted to get the names of Mrs. Annie Evine, Mrs. Victoria Gray, and Mrs. Fannie Lou Hamer and AAron Henry placed on the official ballot of the state of Mississippi to run for congresswomen and senator on an independent ticket. The attempt failed, so the Negro had no way to express himself.about whom he wanted tor epresent him. So the MFDP decided that they would have a mock freedom election that would take place October 30, 31, Nov. 1, 2. In Madison County the representatives of MFDP accepted the freedom vote. They got together and set up polling places all over the county, in the churches, homes, grocery stores, and other places of business. However, the number of votes cast was considerably less than in the previous freedom vote. The majority opinion of the Canton staff on the reasons for this was that not enough political education was involved and the people could not be impressed by the significance of what they were doing because they were given no chance to understand it. In other words, the emphasis was too much on getting as many signatures as possible in almost any way possible. Not only did this prove ineffective on the people, but also demoralizing for the staff.

POLITICAL PROGRAMS: The Congressional Challenge

After discussing the congressional challenge with some people from around the state and with officials of the FDP, it was decided that we would attempt to get 1000 Negroes to go to Washington the day the 89th Congress opened, when, Mrs. Devine of the 4th Congressional District, Mrs. Fannie Lou Hamer, Mrs. ictoria Gray of the 5th ongressional istrict would challenge the five congressmen elected in Mississippi. In deciding this it was said that we would go back into our local communities and explain the challenge to the people, and attempt to get them to raise their own money and means of transportation.

The program was explained to the people and within the three month period the people of Madison ounty raised enough money to rent a bus for $450(but the bus broke down before it got out of the state). There was enough money left over for gas expenses. About fifty people went from Madison County, Mississippi.

Depositions are also a part of the congressional challenge, and while this is being written lawyers are busy talking to witnesses who will give open testimony in relationship to being denied the right to vote, police brutality, etc. These people will testify in support of the three FDP candidates. This testimony will be given Jan. 25, 1962.

POLITICAL PROGRAMS: community organization

The staff in Madison County are in the process of a continuous organizational program. The method they are using is setting up house meetings, church meetings, precinct meetings, etc, with the sole purpose of getting people to talk about local problems, their problems, and anything they would like to talk about in hopes that somehow they can see that their various problems are somewhat related and that usually the solutions can be obtained with similar methods. We are really trying to get a program developed with the community saying exactly what it will be. This will provide them with the feeling of"I planned this and I'm going to work to see whether this program succeeds or fails. You see, we feel from talking to the

local people and to the staff that people are tired of people telling them what to do, because this has happened all their life. We feel that in Madison County at this point we must be advisory without a premade program.

FEDERAL PROGRAMS: The ASCS Elections

In November Federal Programs in Canton became chiefly concerned with preparations for the ASCS elections. These preparations were initially thwarted by transportation limitations. The whole job of getting Negro candidates' names on the ballots was muffed because staff workers were unable to attend the meetings at which candidates' petitions were to have been drawn up. Finally, though, cars were rented, and as the December 3 election date drew nearer the entire Canton staff began to function with unprecedented coordination and sense of direction.

Staff workers moved into each of the 8 communities in Madison County (community boundaries were drawn by the ASCS) and began organizing for the campaign. The method of organization followed these lines: the staff worker contacts a few community leaders and spent a good deal of time making sure that they understood the voting procedure (which involved write-ins), the nature of the ASCS and the gains that a victory in the election could mean. The community leaders in turn began to organize canvassing teams among their neighbors to spread the word about the election and to get people committed to going to the polls Dec. 3. Staff workers met frequently with these canvassing teams and also attended other meetings about the electionwhich community leaders called. The staff tried in most cases to act purely as resource persons.

The results of this approach are hard to measure. In the first hours of election daythe Negro voter turnout looked more promising than the staff had expected in most communities. However by the time the polls closed - after 4 arrests, several physical threats, one inury and innumerable instances of voters being deprived of their full voting rights -- the odds had turned against the Negroes except in one community where a Negro committee chairman was elected by a slender margin.

Since then various avenues of protest have been tried: we filed a report of the physical intimidation and violence with the Justice Department and another with the Civil Rights Commission. About 15 voters complained on their own to the state ASCS committee and about 1 had hearings before that committee; the results of the hearing were unfavorable. However those who did not have hearings received word that hearings were unnecessary because their votes had been investigated and determined valid after all. We also spent considerable time and some postage communicating the USDA, inquiring about formal channels of complaint. It seems, however, that there are no precedents for challenging an ASCS election, and we were leftXhaiXg hanging in some confusion. We supported an abortive program, originating in the Jackson COFO office, to send a delegation of farmers to Secretary of Agriculture Freeman immediately. Our delegate was ready to go, suit case literally in hand, when Jackson called to say the trip had been cancelled; other counties had not come through. About 3 weeks ago USDA investigators finally appeared. They have been supplied with a thick folder of affidavits and reports (affidavits, incidentally, are still coming in) and through them George Raymond drafted an official complaint, copies of which, with a covering letter, are now circulating all over the United States, hopefully increasing Mr. Freeman's mail-intake.

FEDERAL PROGRAMS: the Farmers League and Madison County Cooperative

At present there is no one in Canton carrying on federal program work. This

is unfortunate not only because of all the untapped potential in this area, but also because XX the promising products of past work are being neglected. The most serious neglect is of the Farmers League and the Madison County Coop. The first, which has been the most dynamic local organization Madison County Negroes have ever seen, is slowly settling into stagnation; the second is on the verge of losing its charter for want of a business manager or someone with a lot of time to spend and a lot of experience and technical knowledge to back him up.

WELFARE

Madison County periodically receives large shipments of clothing and food from northern supporters. These are supplemented, too, by small boxes which frequently come in the mail from various individuals. Occasionally, too, the county receives part of the shipments which are sent into Jackson C.F.O. There is no question about the need which such supplies can partially fill. But there is an overwhelming question about how they should be distributed. The Canton staff unanimously agrees that distribution from here on out must be the responsibility of the local community, not only because there are insufficeint staff workers and facilities to handle it, but also because the Freedom House should not become a symbol of do-gooder-give-aways. We have begun conversations with local people and are planning a meeting in the immediate future to formulate a county-wide welfare program. We anticiapte that several large problems will develop: one will concern the places of storage and distribution, none of which the staff wants in the vicinity of Freedom House; another, very touchy one will concern the merits and disadvantages of using clothing and food to "encourage" people to take part in the movement. Whatever the solutions and final decisions, this is a pressing issue which the staff is determined to see resolved soon.

VOTER REGISTRATION

No organized approach to voter registration has been tried since the end of the summer project. This is mostly because energies have been channelled into the MFDP programs, the ASC elections, and, most recently, the staff's work on grass roots community organization. In one community where a staff worker has been living for about a month, holding small "tea parties", discussions with the local people a locally-initiated, locally-planned voter registration campaign is taking shape: nothing dramatic, no freedom days (the people have explicitly vetoed them, in fact), just a few people a week going to the Court House and perhaps (this is still in the discussion stage) the setting up of preparatory workshops. Here, the Canton staff believes, is an example (and there are others) of how the local people can sense and meet their own needs in their own ways, fully understanding what they're about and why it's important -- a picture far preferable to that of staff workers telling them what is good for them and leading them through the paces without even giving them a chance to grasp the nature and significance of what is happening.

INCIDENT REPORT

Except around ASCS election time the frequency and degree of harassment have dropped off considerably. Martha Wright did spend a day in jail during the freedom vote. She was picked up for "distributing leaflets without a permit," but her case was dismissed on the grounds that it was her first offense (interesting, since the prosecuting attorney knew it to be her 2nd offense -- she has a trial in the federal courts on the same charge from this summer). Around the same time Bill Forsyth was given a traffic ticket for illegal parking when his jeep stalled on him; he pleaded not guilty, was his own defense, and won the case! The same day George Raymond was jailed for interfering with an officer when he pulled up

to see what kind of trouble Bill was having. His case has been removed to federal court.

Just before the ASCS elections a local canvasser, Mr. Cleophus Luckett, was shot at from a passing car while walking down a country road. He was unharmed. Also, Tom Ramsay, who was coordinating the elections, received 2 illegal traffic tickets in the week before the election. In one instance police tailed him out of town to charge him with speeding, even though he was driving 5 miles under the limit. Then, on election day, 4 persons were arrested on charges of "disturbing the peace in a public place," "disobeying a police officer," and "trespassing." Three cases have now been removed to federal courts. The fourth, George Raymonds, was tried in absentia, found guilty, fined $109. He has now appealed the case.

Also on December 3 Marv Rich had his nose broken by a small mob at one of the polling places. Martiss Crawford was threatened at gun point at another; Eric Orr was hit in the face at another; Earnest Chanes received threats at the polling place where he worked, but they didn't materialize. Also, at least one voter was threatened with a rest if he voted for the Negro candidate.

Since the election a bullet has been fired into the home of another of the chief canvassers, Mr. Walton Stokes, and a phone call to Freedom House reporting the beating of the successful Negro candidate was made, but it turned out to be a hoax.

THE COMMUNITY CENTER

The Community Center in Canton is closed and has been closed for about two months. The staff met and felt that it was best to close the center. At that time, Martha Wright and Jo Ann Volman were working there daily. Some of the problems they encountered were the unruliness of the young people, who are the determining factor of whether the center succeeds or fails. Through long staff meetings and discussions with local people and staff people, it was a concensus that the only way the community center would succeed and progress in Canton would be through the people themselves not only showing a desire for it, but also doing most of the work in constructing and building it. And this has not been the case in Canton. The center was merely a place where they could come and have dances and steal what they could. However, there were a few kids who used the library effectively. A few young people and several adult community leaders are presently discussing what should be done next. The staff is hoping that their decision will call for much more community involvement.

[1965, Feb]

(1)

CANTON PROJECT REPORT

I am very sorry for the delay of this report. It will include the following things: Personnel Report (who is now on the project and how they are financed), Financial Report (beginning with March), Report on FDP hearings, Public Accomodation Testing, Madison County Activities report (including Farmer's League, County Convention, Sewing project, and Union project)

Personnel for Madison County	Work	Paid
George Raymond Jr.	Project Director	CORE
Bill Forsyth	Madison County Comm. A	CORE
JoAnn Coiman	Canton Office Manager	CORE
Bill Hamblin	Madison County Comm BCD	none
Judy Hampton	Madison County Comm H	CORE
Phil Sharp	Madison County Comm G	CORE
Johnny Smith	Madison County Comm BCD	Work-Stu dy
Milton Pickett	Madison County	Work-Study
Eartiss Crawford	Madison County Comm BCD	Work-Study
C.O. Chinn Sr.	Canton	CORE
Finch Evans	Madison County Comm BCD	none

Personnel for Rankin County		
Martha Wright	Rankin County (Sandhill)	CORE
Sears Buckley Jr.	Rankin County "	CORE
Myrtis Evans	Rankin County "	Work-Study
Susanne Maxon	Rankin County "	CCRE chapter in North
Sandra Watts	Rankin County "	CORE

Personnel for Scott County		
Pat Packard	Scott County (Ludlow)	paid by group in north
Josephine Walls	Scott County "	none
Louise Evans	Scott County "	none

(Valley View area headed by Andrew Green send in separate reports)

PUBLIC ACCOMODATIONS TESTING

On Friday, February 26th., local Negro citizens tested the Civil Rights Law. In the morning, a group of five Negro ladies went to Jones Drug Store and Wardell's restaurant in Canton. Three ladies went into Jones Drug Store which has a lunch counter and tables where one may eat. Just before they went in, a white COFO worker went into the Drug Store, sat down at one of the tables and was served immediatley. When the Negro women walked into the store, all the chairs at the tables had been removed except two. The waitress asked them what they wanted and they all said they wanted malts. She told them that she could serve them to go, but they could not eat them there. Just before she took their order she quickly removed the last two remaining chairs from the tables and put them behind the counter. When the ladies asked her why they couldn't eat the malts there, the waitress replied, "Because I'm just not going to serve you. Look down at the sign at the counter, don't you see it?" (pointing to a penciled sign which said "closed") The ladies said they saw the sign and walked out of the Drug Store. They then went to Wardell's Restaurant (all five of them) but they only walked in and sat there for about 2 minutes. They saw a man go to the back of the restaurant and pick up what they think was a telephone book. This made them nervous, so they got right up and left the restaurant.

That afternoon eight younger people tested Wardell's restaurant and the public library. The library was locked up when they got there at approximately 4:15 p.m. They then went up to Wardell's restaurant. Immediately preceding them was two white COFO workers who walked in and sat down in the restaurant. The Negro group came into the Restaurant and sat down at two tables. After about 2 or 3 minutes, the manager of the restaurant came over to each of the tables and told them very politely that he could not serve them. When they asked why he replied that it was not because of color or creed but because of the good of his business. He then came over to where the two white COFO workers were sitting and told them that they had better go too. When they asked why, he replied that he reserved the right to serve whom he pleased. When asked if he was Mr. Wardell he answered that he was. The Negro group and the COFO workers all got up and left the restaurant. There were quite a few white people standing around the streets. A group of five students went into another place, called the Salty Sandwich Shop. (This place has a divided room one side for white and one side for "colored".) As the Negro students walked into this place the woman working there ran out of the shop and went over to talk to a policeman. Finally as the students just stood on the white side, a white man came in and told them that they would have to go over to the colored side to be served. When they asked why, the man replied that the woman just didn't want them in her place. They left the shop.

There is more testing to be done in Madison county. As of yet suits have not been filed against any of these places. We have been advised by attorneys to wait until we finish testing all of the places that we want to test so that one suit may be brought against all of these places.

FREEDOM DEMOCRATIC PARTY DEPOSITION HEARING FOR THE CONGRESSIONAL CHALLENGE

On February 8th. through February 12th. the Freedom Democratic held hearings for the Congressional Challenge in Madison County. The hearings were held at the Madison County Courthouse in Canton. This was part of the statewide 40 day period to gather testimony to substantiate the challenge to the five regular Congressmen from Mississippi that they had not been elected by the majority of the people of Mississippi. Many local Negro citizens testified at these hearings about how they had been denied the right to register to vote or the complicated procedure that they had to go through to become registered voters. The first witness was Mr. George Washington Sr. who told of how he had been harrassed and threatened since he rented the house to the COFO Project and became involved in the Movement in Madison County. During Mr. Washington's testimony the sheriff and two deputies came into the courtroom with their guns exposed and stood glaring at the witness. Our lawyer protested after which a 15 minute recess was called with the final decision that the opposition lawyers said that the hearings could be moved into another room and our lawyer said that they would try to find some other place for the hearings so our witnesses would not be subject to intimidation. During the cross examination of Mr. Washington by local Canton lawyers representing Prentiss Walker it was attempted to show that the things that happened to Mr. Washington were just isolated incidents. George Raymond Jr., Canton Project Director, was the next witness and he testified with great clarity about all acts of intimidation, beatings, bombing, etc. connected with the Voter Registration Drive in Madison County and the recent ASCS election. His cross examination was put off until Thursday.

On February 9, 1965 six Negro witnesses testified as to what happened to them when they tried to register and what happened to them on the first Freedom Day in Canton in 1963. All during the testimony the opposition lawyers kept referring to Negroes as "Nigras" to which our lawyer kept objecting strongly as well as to the use of the witnesses first names by the opposition lawyers. The local citizens testimony went from failure to pass the test, to lose of land and physical intimidation when they took the voter registration test.

On February 10, 1965, six more local Negro citizens testified also about the difficulties they had encountered when they attempted to register to vote. Their stories told of being arrested on false charges, threatened by police officers, and a killing of a Negro citizens.

On February 11, 1965, George Raymond Jr. was cross examined by the opposition lawyers. That afternoon, the mayor of Canton, L.S. Mathews and the local president of the White Citizens Council, Gus Noble, were questioned. Mayor Mathews was very elusive but it was brought out that he is a member of the WCC and on the state executive board. The mayor refused to answer many questions about who were members of the WCC and in general put himself in a very bad position. Gus Noble was very hostile about the first freedom day and the selective buying campaign. Our lawyer continually badgered him about the meaning of the WCC and also put him in very bad light. Upon the conclusion of these witnesses testimony the opposition lawyer made an objection saying that the testimony was irrelevant and immaterial.

On February 12, 1965, six more local Negro citizens testified.

These hearings were very significant not only for the Challenge, but also for the local Negro people of Madison County. For the first time the courtroom was integrated and integrated so thoroughly that the whites finally retreated up behind the the bar that separates the judge and jury from the audience. Also for the first time the white man heard Negroes telling him that they did not like to be called by their first names and did not like conditions in Mississippi.

4

CANTON PROJECT FINANCIAL REPORT

This report will begin with the month of March. As of that time the money in the office was given out of personal checks from individual staff members.

Received	Paid Out	Source	Date
$25.00		Contribution from Bill Forsyth	3/5/65
$40.00		Repaid loan from Sonny Dearon	3/9/65
$190.00		Contribution from Sarah Leiber (used to pay for Bill Hamblin's car)	3/10/65
$100.00		Payment from Mississippi CORE to make up for money spent on fixing Hamblin's car	3/11/65
$225.00		Contributions from North obtained by Bill Forsyth in speaking tour	3/11/65
$580.00	(received up to March 18, 1965)		
+15.00	contribution from North		
2.00	contribution for food from local person		
$597.00 Total	$2.13	Food money for Freedom House	3/6/65
	2.80	Laundry for Freedom House	3/6/65
	3.33	Food money	3/8/65
	6.14	Food money	3/8/65
	2.79	Food money	3/9/65
	4.00	Food money	3/9/65
	7.82	Food for staff meeting (15)	3/9/65
	1.69	Food money	3/10/65
	10.00	Subsistence money for Finch Evans and Bill Hamblin	3/10/65
	1.00	Phone money and soap	3/10/65
	2.12	Phone bill ending Feb. 22nd.	3/10/65
	1.26	Food money	3/11/65
	2.00	Food money	3/11/65
	2.00	Loan to Phil Sharp	3/11/65
	75.00	Rent to Washington's for Freedom House	3/11/65
	2.88	Food money	3/11/65
	4.41	Food money	3/11/65
	2.24	Food money	3/12/65
	5.00	Food money	3/12/65
	6.00	Money for Madison County Citizen	3/12/65
	2.69	Food money	3/13/65
	4.00	Food money	3/15/65
	1.00	Food money	3/15/65
	8.00	Finch Evans & Subsistence money	3/16/65
	8.00	Bill Hamblin - subsistence money	3/16/65
	$168.30		

Total Received - $597.00
Total Paid Out - 358.30
(including $190 check above) $238.70 Balance

5

MADISON COUNTY ACTIVITIES

The County Convention

The Madison County Movement has set up a county convention for March 27, 1965 at a local man's house by the name of Stokes Ware. All the project's activities have been centered around this coming convention for the past month. The county has been divided up into the same communities that were used for the ASCS Election. This gives the county 8 communities plus the town of Canton. Each of these communities has been worked by COFO workers. The main idea behind this convention is to bring elected representatives together to talk about the things that they want to do in the coming months. It is generally felt that COFO has continued to bring programs to the people to carry out like the Freedom Registration, the Freedom Vote and the Challenge. For the first time, local citizens will be coming together to discuss what they want to carry out themselves. Each of these 8 communities plus Canton, are now electing representatives to represent them at the convention. There is also a educative process going on with these elections. The people are first discussing the merits of such a convention before electing delegates and are also discussing things that they want to see done in their various communities. For example, most of the people in two communities want to see their roads improved and want to talk about having Freedom Schools this summer. Most of the people have been meeting in small groups with a COFO worker to talk about what this convention means and what they want to see done. One community has already drawn up a petition to take to the county road supervisor about their roads. All attention of the project has been centered on this one program and it is hoped that for the first time local people will have a hand in selecting the programs that they want to carry out. It is also hoped that these elected representatives will continue to function in their communities after the convention.

Sewing Project

A group of about five local ladies have been talking about starting a sewing Co-operative. They can all make shirts and dresses in a short amount of time. They feel that they could start a COOP which would make shirts and dresses to sell to places. There has also been talk of getting some Northern contacts to supply the material. The ladies have now made four smaples of their work and it will be sent to various companies in the North to see if they would be interested in this market. The COFO office has two sewing machines to start with and plans are now being made to look into the procedure to set up such a Coop. The ladies are very serious about this project and want to start on it right away.

Union Activity

There have been several meetings about forming a union at one of the local wood working mills in Canton. This mill employes about 150 Negroes and they work in segregated facilities and for a low wage and long hours. The main problem is trying to get all the employees together. Many are afraid of losing their jobs. George Raymond is going to get more information on how to start a union, plus talk to the head of the Mississippi AFL/CIO. There will be more information on this later. Right now it is just in the talking stages.

Submitted by

Madison-Canton

Postmark May 10, 1965

Canton COFO
838 Lutz St.
Canton, Miss.

This letter is written as a follow-up to the ones sent out after last December's ASC elections in Madison County and after the first word from the Agriculture Department on re-elections in two communities of the county. A month ago we sent out a mailing to explain certain actions of the farmers of the county which had angered the Department of Agriculture. The department found it hard to believe that the farmers were not overjoyed at having re-elections in just two of eight communities and that we refused to counsel them as to what course of action was the "wisest" - in view of what the department considered its gift of re-elections in two communities.

The view from here presents a different perspective; we find it hard to believe that the department was unable to find enough evidence to hold re-elections throughout the county. As an example, in communities which are not having re-elections staff members saw or experienced having a gun pulled on a poll-watcher, wholesale eviction of poll-watchers, three arrests of poll-watchers for "trespassing," constant intimidation of voters by county and state officers of the law and such incidents as a man being asked if he "wanted to go to jail" when he said he was voting for the Negro candidate.

To the farmers and the staff it seems incredible that the Agriculture Department cannot understand that re-election throughout the county represents a just demand. They ask for no gifts; they are merely asking that the Department of Agriculture recognize its failure last December and enforce its own rulebook, which was so flagrantly ignored. Even were the farmers to win the two elections being run now, the outcome would not affect the membership of the county board; the conduct of these boards in the past is what led the Negro farmers in the county to run their own candidates in the first place. Thus, the action of the department is meaningless, except as an indication of its realization of the fact that the election was not run in the manner prescribed by its own rulebook.

The farmers of the county and of each community involved voted separately to reject the Department's offer, to boycott the two elections and to sign petitions to the State Committee and the Department in Washington expressing their dissatisfaction with what they term the department's insufficient and overdue action and petitioning for comprehensive re-elections throughout Madison County. They hope that, by their boycott, they will cause the State Committee to order re-elections in those communities because of "insufficient participation." This might cause the Department to consider re-elections for the entire county. We fear, however, that, whatever the provocation, the Department will consider first the reaction of the Southern-oriented Agriculture Committees in the House and Senate, and only second the welfare of disenfranchised Negro farmers in the South.

(over)

Madison-Canton

postmark May 10, 1965

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(over)

It seems to us that, if the Department of Agriculture is serious about e liminating the tacit acceptance of discrimination which has, unfortunately, characterized many of its programs in the South, something more is to be expected than the half-hearted acknowledgement of injustice. We expect and hope that, as time goes on, more and more Negro farmers in the South will attempt to participate actively in programs of the Agriculture Department. If they cannot look forward to more rigid enforcement of the rules in the department and more active concern for the rights of the oppressed than we have seen in Madison County to date, I have not much hope for their success.

Sincerely yours,

W. H. Forsyth, Jr.

W.H. Forsyth, Jr.
Canton COFO

RH
So 62

New Orleans, La.

May 13, 1964

An impromptu report on recent events in Canton, Miss.

As of 5-12-64 the Weinbergers had not received their copy of the sales tax permit from the state govt. They had previously gotten one for their shop at the Canton Freedom House, 838 Lutz Ave., but ~~////~~ their business permit was denied by the city authorities. They then sought to get the permit for their shop in a building in rural Madison county. When they get the state permit (actually just an agreement to pay state sales tax) they will then have to apply to the County for a permit to do business. They are concerned about not having yet received the state permit for the new address.

Scott Smith is in the Veterans Hospital in Jackson with a seriously infected foot. He says the infection ~~//~~ may have resulted in a cut he got in the county jail in Canton. At any rate he seems to have neglected it and there is a possibility that ~~itzmzyzhzvzntozhz~~ his foot may have to be amputated. This seems strange, that he would have let it reach that point, for a person who was a medic in the military.

During the week of May 4 a phone call came to the Canton Freedo m House from a man purporting to represent the Klan who said they were going to burn the House down. About three weeks earlier the owner of the land and building had his fire insurance on the Freedom House cancelled. He had the policy paid up and no reason was given. The owner is George Washington (see earlier reports for his troubles) and he owns a lot of property in Canton and presumably carries fire insurance on all of them but the policy covering the Freedom House was the only one cancelled.

On Thursday May 7 a man in a white hood and cape drove by the Freedom House. ~~Zhenszondzzzzs~~ during the evening. The second time he drove by that evening neighborhood children spotted him and shouted "there he is, there he is" and started running after the car. The driver who was apparently alone in the car fired a pistol shot back towards the car but obviously intending not to hit them. Observers say the bullet kicked up dirt in the road about 20 yards behind the car whereas the children were over 50 yards behind the car.

Matt Suarez was arrested in rural Madison County outside the Southern Hill Baptist church on highway 16 on Tuesday May 5, and the same evening also arrested was Hattie Palmer. The rather complicated situation is this: Suarez drove to the church but found the driveway blocked by a car (later known to be a police car), he parked somewhat illegally on the side of the road while he went inside the church to ask the owner of the car to move it so he could park. While he was inside the church Hattie Palmer who was with him saw a car coming down the road so she decided to moave the car a little to get it further off the road or to what she thought would be a safer place to park it; she doesn't have a drivers license. Suarez was charged with two counts of illegal parking and Palmer for driving without a license. His fine was $64 and hers $19. My notes show that he was in jail from Tues to Thurs. and Sat. to Mon. just why that was I don't know.

Sunday night May 10 a volunteer from Hattiesburg Joe Walker was arrested for xxxxzzppz speeding (which he may have been) and held in jail 4 hours until his $29 fine was paid. This in Madison Co. also.

Wednesday May 6 at 4 AM Rev. Grady Poullard's car (he's with the NCC and the car is a Hertz, I think from Memphis) was towed away in Canton for improper parking. After he paid a $25 towing fee and a $16 ticket and was driving it away he was stopp ed for having zzwitched "switched tags". I don't believe a determination has yet been made on that case, pending some word from Hertz, or something like that. Another minister was arrested on the same charge for drw driving Rev. Poullard's car. His trial was scheduled for Tues. May 12. His name sounded like Lyle Weible (Rev.).

/Ed Hollander

Canton
Ans

CORE
38 Park Row
New York, NY

M E M O R A N D U M

March 11, 1965

TO: George Raymond, Richard Haley, Dave Dennis cc: Mrs. J. Swing

FROM: Mrs. Newman Levy

SUBJECT: Canton - Salisbury

A very intelligent group of women in Salisbury, Connecticut are working on a Canton, Mississippi project. They want to have the opportunity of direct contact with CORE people in Canton and the South. I have given them your name and telephone number.

This is just more or less to introduce Mrs. John Swing, so that if and when she telephones you will know who she is.

Hi! Eva G. Levy

505 West Green Street
Tallulah, Louisiana
October 25, 1965

Dear Sir:

We, the Negro community of Tallulah, Louisiana, would be grateful to you if you comply with the 1964 and 1965 Civil Rights Act to the extent of giving prompt employment to a Negro sales clerk and a Negro cashier in your enterprise. It is evident that over 50% of your business is due to Negro customers. You would realize a lucrative profit from your business if you give prompt compliance to our request.

If you give us a date within fifteen (15) days for which we can discuss our grievance we would be thankful. A prompt response will be appreciated.

Yours truly,

Rev Willie Johnson

Rev. Willie Johnson, Chairman
Steering Committee

Mrs Helen B. McClinton

Mrs. Helen B. Mc Clinton, Secretary

Attest:
Mr. Zelma C. Wyche, President

Zelma C. Wyche

Madison Parish Voters League

505 West Green Street
Tallulah, Louisiana
November 11, 1965

The Honorable William P. Sevier
Tallulah State Bank
Tallulah, Louisiana

Your Honor:

We the citizens, The Madison Parish Voters' League and the Congress of Racial Equality petition the Honorable mayor of Tallulah, Louisiana to take prompt action against the water company to supply the Negro Community of Tallulah with fire plugs and a fire station in the vicinity. Because of the lack of fire plugs and the shortage of fire trucks, Mr. Moses Williams lost his Business and two days later a Negro lady lost her life in a tragic fire that destroyed her home.

We demand that direct action be taken within fifteen (15) days to supply fire plugs within the Negro Community and within the next thirty (30) days a Blue Print be drawn up for the Fire Station within the Negro Community.

Freedom Now
Citizens Of Tallulah

[1965]

After investigating the Thomastown High School, below are lited finding by The Sterring Committee of The Madison Parish Voters League, that need immediate consideration.

1. Surfacing parking lot.
2. Locks and doors for high school building.
3. Shades and doors in both building.
4. Cooling system in cafeteria.
5. Folding chairs for gymnasium.
6. Canopy from high school to elementary building.
7. Water softner for entire school.
8. Enclosure of patio.
9. Band director.
10. Physical Education Teacher.
11. Commercial course, foreign language and chemistry.
12. Improvement of farm shop.
13. Brick building for high school.
14. Improvement of heating system.
15. School owned and operated bus (one not worn out).
16. Increase school supplies.
17. More buses for transporting children.
18. Adequate Home Economic Department.
19. Janitors equipment or assistant.

Below are listed requests that were presented to the Madison Parish School Board for Ruben McCall High School by The Steering Committee of The Madison Parish Voters League.

Mr. Robert Doctor
Rm. 30, Fed. Bldg.
164 N. Main St.
Memphis, Tenn.

Complaint Howard White's Rest Holiday Capri Motel.
(C. R. Commission) James H. Williams July 25, July 11

Madison Parish Hosp; Md. Parish Health Unit.
(atty Gen) Mrs. Elnora Virgil
Miss Evelyn Kenney

Send 9 Am Registered buttons to Tallulah

[1965]

Citizens of Madison County
838 Lutz Street
Canton, Miss.

The Mayor and Board of Aldermen,
City of Canton
Canton, Mississippi

Dear Sirs:

We the members of the Canton Movement feel the present racial situation which now confronts Canton is very disturbing to everyone. Our concern is for both white and black citizens and the progress of the City of Canton.

The present situation is one to be concerned about. There is a total disregard of the rights of Negroes. Two-thirds of the total population of Canton is Negro, yet Negroes have no voice in city government, nor do they represent any part of the law enforcement body. We are now willing to discuss any matters you feel necessary and also something which we feel involves the entire community.

To prevent any other action by either side we strongly suggest immediate consideration of the following:

1. The registering of Negroes in Madison County and the policy of the registrar when registering Negroes.
2. Police brutality in and around Canton.
3. School zone for the protection of Negro children.
4. Public sidewalks.
5. Hiring of Negroes in city government on a non-discriminatory basis.
6. Removal of all segregation sighs from public places.
7. Desegregation of all public facilities.
8. Proposals to improve housing conditions.
9. The hiring of Negroes on the Canton police force, to be selected in consultation with the Madison County Movement.
10. A biracial committee to discuss improving race relations.
11. Integrate the Chamber of Commerce so that it can represent all the people and not just one small segment.
12. Prosecution of police involved in police brutality.

You gentlemen are responsible for the growth and welfare of our city; therefore we look to you for solutions to these problems. As citizens of Madison County, we are more than willing to assist in any way we can.

We will expect to hear from you within the next nine days.

Respectfully yours,
Citizens of Madison County

_____ _____

_____ _____

_____ _____

see other side for more signatures

Miss.
Circulate;
file Mad. Co.

[1965]

MADISON COUNTY SEWING FIRM

838 LUTZ ST.
CANTON, MISS.

MADISON COUNTY SEWING FIRM

The Madison County Sewing Firm began in a precinct meeting last winter when some Negro women brought up the question of jobs and the movement - first, what can people do who have lost their jobs because of participation in the movement, and second, what can people do to reduce the dependence of the Negro women on the power structure, specifically her "job" as a maid in white homes for $10 or $15 a week? This dependence, as the women pointed out, has been at least partly responsible for the failure of urban movements in the South, even in a city as small as Canton, Mississippi.

Some of the women involved in the meetings had had some sewing experience both at home and at the factories operated mostly by the county's worst racists. In the face of considerable derision and minimal support from most of the community, eight women and one man met regularly with civil rights workers. The women ran record hops and canvassed the Negro community for capital to get started, and made sample shirts to show potential buyers. Meanwhile, a group of Northern supporters raised $1500 for operating capital. The women worked out a contract with the Child Development Group in Edwards, Mississippi to manufacture smocks and other clothes for the Mississippi Project Headstart. The Firm went into partnership, arranged a two-year lease with a sympathetic Negro businessman on a building just outside the city limits to avoid zoning and licensing problems, cleaned up the building, and installed bathrooms, lighting fixtures, fans and some machinery donated by the Headstart Program. There are now sixteen people on the payroll, and if markets can be opened up, the firm plans to expand and incorporate into a direct attack on the maid system.

This report makes it sound easy. As an example of some of the trials the Firm has been through, the installation of the sewer line is a good illustration. The building that is leased is thirty yards from the highway: before the women

could install bathrooms and running water, they had to have a sewer pipe running from the building to the main line under the highway. One of the partners of the firm runs a cafe and has had a number of business dealings with a Negro that we'll call Mr. N who in turn has done plumbing work for a white man in town who we will call Mr. W. Mr. W also runs a motel. The partner went to see Mr. X with $20 for the permit to dig up the highway. Mr. X then went to see Mr. W and told him that the property was being leased by Mr. Y. Mr. W talked to some members of the Firm who said they were planning "maybe for a cafe or some business like that; whatever it is, it won't hurt your motel". Mr. W said it would cost $575 to get it done within four or five days - more than it should have been, but it was the only way to get the job done. The next day a man from the state highway board came to look at the site; when he went to get the permit signed, someone told him that the land was owned by Clarence Chinn, brother of C.O. Chinn -- who is one of the main supporters of the movement in Canton, and is now COFO Project Director in Madison County.

At this point, the man from the highway commission went back to Mr. W and told him that he couldn't issue the permit because of Clarence Chinn. Mr. W gave him a fifth of whiskey, assured him that Clarence Chinn had no connection with his brother and that Mr. W had some money in the project; the only way he could get his money out would be to get the permit signed and the sewer dug. The man capitulated: "Since you're a friend....."

Mr. N called six companies in Canton and Jackson and met a barrage of excuses why none of them could dig the sewer. The earliest date he could get was three months away; one company said the earliest they could do it would be in six months time, and they might not be able to do it at all. Mr. N went back to Mr. W, who called the company that couldn't do it for six months, if at all. The sewer was installed the following day.

Throughout the transaction, it is interesting to note, that neither Mr. N or Mr. W knew that Mr. Y was one of a group or that the building was to be a

factory.

The Firm has been and is plagued by more conventional business problems. Capital is scarce, the machines they are using are inadequate and managing experience is limited. Marketing problems are also with the group, perhaps the most immediate necessity is the assurance that after the Headstart contract is over, there will be someone to buy what the Firm can manufacture.

In spite of these and other problems, the Madison County Sewing Firm has managed to retain the original purpose of the group. Four of the first six people hired the morning the factory opened were on their way to work in white homes. Today (June 21) eight more people are being hired from the waiting list of over fifty-three who had lost their jobs because of work in the movement; five were working in white kitchens. The 24 members of the Firm need the support of groups throughout the nation who can persuade stores and chains of stores to buy.....

Following is the equipment that is needed to insure peak production.

1. 32 industrial sewing machines
   a. 16 Union Specials (double stitch)
   b. 16 Bar Tackers (single stitch)
   c. attachments for making button holes, fastening buttons etc.
2. Electric fabric cutters
3. Fabric of all types
4. Thread, zippers and assorted sewing notions
5. Shears (32 pair)

With the proper equipment we can produce the following articles of clothing.

Men's and women's shirts - 800 per week
womens dresses
smocks
mens and boys suits

Please mail all contributions and further questions to -

Miss Maggie Douglas, Pres.
MADISON COUNTY SEWING FIRM
838 Lutz St.
Canton, Miss.

[1965]

NEGROES of CANTON REGISTER TO VOTE --
PAY YOUR POLL TAX NOW!

Where? County Courthouse
When? N O W
How much? Poll tax is $2.00

R E M E M B E R . . . You don't have to be registered to pay poll tax-----and you don't have to pay poll tax to register to vote.

Miller County

C O R E SOUTHERN REGIONAL OFFICE

2211 Dryades Street

New Orleans, Louisiana 70113

523-7204

September 21, 1964

Mr. James Cellier

Philadelphia, Mississippii

Dear James,

I recently received a letter from Ben Brown in the CORE National Office. You probably are aware of some of the work done by the Southern Education Project, a group of volunteers who have collected books, typewriters and otherequipment to send to the south. SEP has still more plans for the future, and ask our help in order to bring these plans to fruition. I will quote directly from Ben's letter to give you some idea of what he wants.

"The CORE Southern Education Project is planning on getting out a brocure which will tell our supporters about our efforts here and about the results in the deep south. This brocure will be used for promotional work in the expanding program of CSEP. For this brocure we need pictures from Meridian, Canton, Jackson, Plaquemine and other areas where CORE is setting up Community Centers. This appea l is being made to you because efforts in the past to secure pictures have been fruitless. Please help us in whatever way you can."

Ben also said in the letter that CSEP is presently undertaking a drive to obtain small economical cameras for all of our Task Force workers. I'm sure you'll agree with me that it is very much to our advantage to help the people in this project, because they been of real help to us many times in the past and give promise of continuing help of the most practical nature.

Send your pictures to Benjamin A. Brown, Chairman, CORE Southern Education Project, 38 Park Row, New York.

Sincerely,

Richard Haley

RH/ds

C Sept. 18, 1964 Jim Rollins

THE NESHOBA COUNTY REPORT

The Neshoba County Project began in August with canvassing starting around the county and speaking at every church. We were trying to find people that wanted to do something. We were sucessful in finding people in all parts of the county. Meetings were held at people's homes until the churches began to offer their assistance. We held our first political workshop at Steven's Chapel. Here, the people began talking about the court house. We then called a county-wide Freedom Rally for the coming Sunday. At this meeting, the people of Neshoba County said they would like to go to the Courthouse the coming Monday. That Monday, thirty people went down to the Neshoba County House. There were two arrests during the day. That afternoon the people wanted to go down the next Monday. At a meeting, the Local people are making their plans more certain. We are trying very hard to get the Indians to take part in the program.(the Choctaw Indians live in Neshoba County) They know something has to be done about their problem too. After the first stand-in I am very sure we will have them participating the next time.

EXPANSION INTO OTHER COUNTIES

The counties that have federal suits should be worked now, Becuase of the shortage of staff this can only be done with a roving team. This team can make contact and get people into a political workshop that can be held in Meridian. We must also find places for workers to live, plus getting places for Freedom Schools, Community Centers etc. A White Folks project might also be suitable.

With a program like this in the future, very little staff will be needed in each county.

REPORT

Yesterday we left the office with fifteen people going to the courthouse to register. While we were waiting , about fifteen more joined the line. In my mind this shows that a majority of the people want to participate in political activities but are waiting for someone else to take the initial step.

In the light of these facts, every Monday will be called Freedom Day in Philadelphia. Groups of people will be taken downtown to register and all the students in the local school will wear a Freedom button.(The Principal has threatened them with dismissal if they are caught wearing one in school) This will instill in their minds the power of Unity.

Out of this initial group of people who went down to take the registration test, some have shown considerable courage and displayed their talents for leadership. Out of this group and future groups, and in addition to the natural leaders whom the people look up to, An executive Committee will be set up. Eventually, out of this group, one will be chosen and groomed to run for public office.

Oct. 20, 1964

Tuesday, October 20, 1964

New Orleans, La. 70113
Phone 523-7204

FREEDOM DRIVE WINS FIRST REGISTERED NEGRO IN PHILADELPHIA, MISS.

Rev. Melvin L. Kirkland, a life-long resident of Neshoba County, Mississippi, became the first Negro to register to vote in the freedom drive now being conducted by CORE in the county where three civil rights workers were murdered in June. On October 16 Rev. Kirkland was told at the county courthouse that he had passed the registration test which he had taken during the first Freedom Day held in Philadelphia on September 14. He was one of 30 Negroes who stood in line all day at the courthouse to take the test. Three days later, on September 17, two churches used in the drive were bombed and totally destroyed. As Rev. Kirkland signed his name in the book of registered voters, white officials watched but said nothing.

Rev. Kirkland, 60, is a retired clergyman and farmer and lives in the rural Longdale community, about five miles outside Philadelphia. He said he had taken the registration test five times since 1952 but had been failed on all those attempts. He is chairman of the executive committee of the Neshoba County Movement which was formed in September.

His house is only half a mile from Mt. Zion Baptist Church which was burned to the ground on June 15. It was this incident which Michael Schwerner, James Chaney and Andrew Goodman were investigating on June 19, they day they were murdered. Rev. Kirkland met Goodman that day and had known Chaney and Schwerner since April when the two made their first trips from Meridian into Neshoba County to start a voter registration drive.

Rev. Kirkland was the delegate from Neshoba County of the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party and went to Atlantic City in August for the MFDP's challenge of the regular Democratic Party delegation to

the National Democratic Convention.

In early August CORE National Vice Chairman Rudy Lombard led a group of civil rights workers into Philadelphia to establish the Neshoba Project for the Council of Federated Organizations (COFO). The program started with a voter registration drive and a bookmobile which toured the rural areas of the county. A freedom school has now been added with classes in math, French and Negro history. Also, there is a library with several thousand books, a welfare program which distributes food and clothing and a project is under way to increase the amount of federal agricultural aid to the farmers in the county. Recently, the CORE workers obtained a building near their office in Philadelphia which will house a community center. The project is now headed by James Collier, CORE task force worker, since Lombard returned to graduate school at Syracuse University.

# # # # # #

C. Dec. 1964

REPORT

NESHOBA PROJECT***** ********** DICK TINSLEY

STAFF : Richard Tinsley, Alan Schiffman, George Smith, Paid by CORE

Marcia Hall ----------Subsistence

* Bill Curtis, Tom Foner---*SHIRLEY WALKER--- Volunteers

NUMBER OF CARS..... (1) 1957 Ford * NEEDING SUBSISTENCE

(1) DEVELOPEMENT OF LOCAL LEADERSHIP:

The Neshoba County Executive Committee has been formed from the most militant, outspoken and responsible people that we could find. Metropolitan Philadelphia and each rural area is represented by a member of the Executive Board. Each member is also chairman of a sub-committee; Rev. Melvin Kirkland---President

Rev. Clint Collier--1st Vice Chrmn. (Political Action)

Margaret Burnside-- 2nd Vice Chrmn. (Community Welfare)

Alvin Burnside-----Exec. Sec. (Public Relations)

Shirley Walker---- Rec. Sec. (Records, Office Coordinating)

Frank Kirkland---- Treasurer (Finance Committee)

(A) POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE: Voter registration, Precinct meetings, FDP

(B) COMMUNITY WELFARE COMMITTEE: Food and clothing distribution, fund raising for financial aid to the aged, sick, those who lost their jobs or were cut off the welfare for participation in the Civil Rights activities.

(C) PUBLIC RELATIONS: Publishing of our bi-monthly newspaper, leaflet distribution, Speakers Bureau, rallies.

(D) RECORDS, SECRETARIAL COORDINATING COMMITTEE: (Self explanatory)

(E) FINANCE COMMITTEE: To work in conjunction with the Public Relations committee in fund raising for bond money, fines, traveling expenses for speakers etc.

A position on the Executive Committee has been left open for a representative of the Farmers League which is in the process of being FORMED.

PROBLEMS: The effectiveness of this committee has been hampered in its operation by the fact that four of the officers of the Exec. Comm. are continously being borrowed for conferences and meetings out of the city and state, i.e., Kirkland to Fayette County, Wayland, Washington; Clint Collier to Jackson; Shirley Walker to Wayland, Fayette County; Margaret Burnside to Canton for the ASC elections etc.

FREEDOM SCHOOLS:

Freedom schools were being held 6 evenings a week, with classes in Negro History, Math, Algebra, Geometry and French, and only one teacher presiding, Alan Schiffman. Classes are now being held in Negro History and French only.

A day-care center has been established for pre-school children by Marcia Hall. She is also holding a Saturday morning Interest Class for elementary children, giving individual tutoring and working with George Smith and the Philidelphia Youth Council. Miss Hall is now acting as librarian and arranging the library in the Dewey Decimal System.

PHILADELPHIA YOUTH COUNCIL:

The developement of local leadership has been extended to the youth of the community by the formation of the Philadelphia Council. These youths are operating the community center and they have charge of everything from maintenance, repair and cleanup to the planning of social activities. Dances are now being given by the Council to raise money for repairs and renovation of the Center.

PROBLEMS: They are too impatient and want to move too fast, i.e. integration of the movies, resturants etc. Our funds are much too short to instigate other programs to siphon off some of this excess energy.

VOTER REGISTRATION:

We have had 4 Freedom days for a total of 94 people to the courthouse. Political Ed. classes and precinct meetings are still being held but voter registration has been curtailed because of the inclement weather. On our last Freedom Day 18 people were made to stand outside the courthouse in 38 degree weather from 10 AM until 5:30 PM.

FDP:

During the Freedom Vote, Neshoba County recorded 538 votes for a total of 25% of the eligible voters in the county. The Exec. Committee is in constant contact and working with the FDP.

FEDERAL PROGRAM:

BEcause of the facts that we have only one car, that we have a personnel shortage, and that our Federal Programmer, Bill Curtis, has only been in Neshoba since October, only one rural area (Stallo) was worked for the ASC elections. Six candidates were run with one being disqualified. Although the Negro is a minority, this is a very strong community. We have shown the other rural areas, (which have been hesitant about movement participation,) what could be done with strong organization by showing them the relative strength of the Stallo community. Our winter program will consist of organizing seven other communities, namely, Dixon, Beasher, Sippsi, Baldwin Springs, Laurel Hill, Hopewell and Longdale.

PROBLEMS:

Lack of personnell and transportation to work these areas with any amount of efficiency.

OVERALL PROJECT PROBLEMS:

(1) <u>One automobile.</u> When this car is working a rural area, all other programs practically grind to a halt, since even metropolitan Philadelphia is so scattered that it takes an automobile to work it.

(2) We think that we are about to lose our <u>Federal Programmer.</u> Bill Curtis. I hear that Jane Adams is about to leave and wants him to replace her.

(3) <u>No Credit Card.</u> Our gasoline and minor auto repair bill is tremendous. This is an old car (1957 FORD) which was in bad shape when we received it. It is now practically falling apart and every time it stops, all work stops.

(4) <u>Personnel Shortage.</u> With our extensive expansion program, we will need help. We are sitting on a powder keg and dont want inexperienced, incompetant personnel, which is comparatively plentiful.

<u>MONEY:</u>

We are in <u>FINANCIAL TROUBLE.</u> At the present time, the staff is spending money out of their pockets to keep the Project going, and we still are going in the hole. [redacted]

file

242A Washington Avenue
Philadelphia, Miss.
5 January 1965

Mr Richard Haley
CORE Southern Director
2209 Dryades Street
New Orleans, La.

Dear Dick,

Enclosed please find latest budget report.

Let me explain about our car--as you know, we have the CORE rental car here. Dave called me last Friday to tell me that the car was due in New York for exchange. He asked me about the condition of the car and I replied that I thought it would make it to New York. As luck would have it, George Smith was at that very moment stalled fifteen miles outside of Philadelphia. To make a long story short, we finally had to replace the starter. For good measure, two of our recently acquired retreads blew out and now it appears that the fuel pump is shot. In all, we have spent over 70 dollars on the car in the last four or five days--50 of which came from CORE and the balance from us. Now I spoke to Ed Hollander yesterday morning and he advised me to simply wait until things in New York were more settled before sending the car back. It so happens that I plan to leave the state permanently sometime around the end of the month. Coincidentally, Rev Collier and four other local peoples are supposed to go up to Philadelphia, Pa. at the invitation of Leon Sullivan around the 24th. Sulliavn's group is interested in setting something up down here and have offered to pay transportation expenses for the group. So... it looks as if we can kill three birds with one stone: I can get back to New York with the car; the local peoples can get to Philadelphia and then bring the new car back to Mississippi; and Leon Sullivan's group pays instead of CORE.

By the way, I will probably be in New Orleans on the 17th and 18th of this month. I am coming down with a white woman from Philadelphia (Miss.) who has been a good friend and a valuable contact. Befre I leave the South I want to take the opportunity to talk with her at length, without fear. I think you would be interested in meeting her and I know she would like to talk with you. So I hope to see you soon.

Happy New Year,

Alan Schiffman

COFO, Gen. Deliv.
Philadelphia, Miss.
May 10, 1965

Mr. Richard Haley
New Orleans CORE
2209 Dryades
New Orleans, Louisiana

Dear Mr. Haley:

This is to request that task force checks for Sandra Watts, Johhny Lee Smith, and me no longer be sent to Canton but to Philadelphia instead. Sandra is now part of the Neshoba County project and Johhny and I are working with the new 4th district office here.

Thanks.

In Freedom,

Jo Ann Oolman

Jo Ann Oolman

cc: George Wiley

Notes onNeshoba County Project, May 17, 1965.

Further discussion with the project workers. Barbara Moss and Eva Young would like to become regular Task Force members; they are now volunteers. Will so recommend as both appear to have good potential.

Made following suggestions:

Write direct to U.S. Post Office Dept. concerning exclusion of Negro neighborhoods from mail delivery service.
Write to same agency on employment of Negroes in local post office.
Write Attorney-General and Civil Rights Commission on failure of registrars of Lauderdale County and Neshoba County to furnish copies of tests to persons who have failed.
Write HEW on discrimination in local hospitals(2).
Write General Services Administration, Dallas, Texas on discrimination in employment at Gov't-contract industries in Neshoba County.
Sound out community on possibility of a co-operative day-nursery which might later be taken in by Project Head-start.
Check availability of sewing machines for summer Freedom School. Machines are presently in Meridian.
Check 4th District for typewriters for same project.
If person has been found to teach electronics, get list of basic needs ~~xxx~~ for program from him.
Determine---and contact---sources from which we might be able to get supplies and equipment for nursery, Freedom School.
Consider a kind of alternation which would place at least one staff member of the District Office in Jackson, to carry on research that cannot be done here. This could be done on a revolving basis so that all members would be familiar with working at both places.
Contact lawyers on ~~xxx~~ problems raised(employment) which seem covered by legislation or statute.
Check to be sure that all printed material needed for workshop is at hand or on order.
Pass any questions on research to Judie Rusbaum, Southern Office, depending on availability of sources near at hand.
Note the necessity of an on-going program, no matter how modest, to hold the current interest of the community. It is as necessary to do this as to plan for the future.

Lawyers Bronstein and (can't get the name) from Seattle, Washington, have set up a preliminary hearing on the Tinsley case. They are at the courthouse now. There may not even be a hearing today; the county attorney may plead insufficient time to contact witnesses.

CORE SOUTHERN OFFICE
2209 Dryades Street
New Orleans, Louisiana 70113

May 14, 1965

Miss Sandra Watts
Philadelphia COFO
General Delivery
Philadelphia, Mississippi

Dear Sandra,

Thanks very much for the recent letter concerning the opening of the fourth district office.

Enclosed is a copy of the letter to Ed.Day, CORE Business manager, I expect a quick reply from him on the matter of insurance. Under separate cover I am also sending two credit cards and the contract to cover both. The person signing the contract should send two copies back to this office.

For a very practical reason we are postponing the Southern Staff Conference from May 20 to May 27. CORE SEDF board meets during that week and thus be able to approve the expenditure envolved in this conference through its board rather than by uniteral action of the executive director. We are having a little problem nailing the facility we would like to use; namely, Mt. Beulah. At any rate, that is the place scheduled for the meeting.

I confess I do not have the broad contacts which easily enable one to pluck out qualified experts to fit our various needs at any given time. I am not even too sure of the minimum criteria for a qualified expert; I gratefully defer to staff for any suggestions you may have in that regard.

It is surely very helpful that you have submitted at this early date the names of the people who will be in the Neshoba group. I hope we get such a prompt response from the other projects.

Sincerely,

Richard Haley
CORE Southern Director

RH/vjj

file [1965, ca. May, 14]

Council Of Federated Organizations

PHILADELPHIA PROJECT

Mr. Richard Haley
CORE Southern Regional Office
2209 Dryades Street
New Orleans, Louisiana

Mr. Haley,

First of all let me inform you that things are just starting to get straightened out in Philadelphia. As you probably know there is now the 4th. District office up here plus the Neshoba Project. As of now eight people are working up here:

Richard Tinsley - 4th. District Communications
Alan Schiffmann - Going into Kemper County
Irad Valentine - Going into Kemper County
JoAnn Ooiman - 4th. District Office
Johnny Smith - 4th. District Office
Eva Young - 4th. District Office
Barbara Moss - Neshoba Project
Sandra Watts - Neshoba Project

We now also have two cars. One belongs to Sandra Watts and the other was just sent down from the North. Both are fairly old cars but seem to run alright and get us around. We would like to know about insurance for these cars. Dick Jewett mentioned about CORE getting a motor fleet policy. We would very much like to know if this is so since neither of our cars are insured.

As for the meeting May 20th. We plan to have seven people come down. There will be Three men, Alan Schiffmann, Richard Tinsley, and Johnny Smith and four women, Sandra Watts, Barbara Moss, Eva Young and JoAnn Ooiman. We think that we will try to coordinate transportation with Clark and Meridian because neither of our cars are in that good of condition to come to New Orleans. We will let you know about that later when we check with these two projects.

We would also like to know if you plan to have qualified experts talk about the subject material. The last meeting did not have a qualified resource person and we would very much like to have some one who is qualified this time.

Our weekly or bi-weekly reports will start coming in very soon, so please don't be too discouraged with us.

Yours for Freedom,

Sandra Watts
Philadelphia COFO
General Delivery
Philadelphia, Mississippi

[1965, May]

Haley

PHILADELPHIA, MISS.

WORKERS:

ROBERT LANDAU VOLUNTEER

EVA MAE YOUNG ~~CORE/STAFF~~ 33 VOLUNTEER

BARBARA CHANEY MOSS VOLUNTEER

JAMES REED VOLUNTEER

JEAN SULLIVAN VOLUNTEER - 203 637-0094

ACTIVITIES: TRYING LIKE HELL TO GET A FEDERAL REGISTRAR QUILTING COOPERATIVE IS BEING STARTED , VOTER REGISTRATION, TUTORING FOR THE KIDS WHO INTEGRATED THE SCHOOL (NINE IN THE COUNTY SCHOOL AND TWELVE IN THE CITY SCHOOL), LEGAL SUIT IN PROGRESS TO GET RID OF THE COLORED AND WHITE SIGNS IN THE COURTHOUSE ALONG WITH THE OTHER SEGREGATED FACILITIES, COURT ~~ØØ~~ SUIT TO OPEN UP THE CITY POOL WHICH WAS DRAINED AFTER AN ATTEMPT TO INTEGRATE IT, OPENING UP THE COUNTY COMPLETELY (SO FAR THERE ARE ONLY TWO COMPLETELY OPENED UP AREA AREAS IN THE COUNTY THE CITY ITSELF AND A SMALL COMMUNITY ABOUT TWELVE MILES OUT OF TOWN - STALLO), BEGINNING TO OPEN UP KEMPER COUNTY.

SET UP: CONVERTED HOTEL WHICH SERVES AS OUR OFFICE AND LIVING QUARTERS FOR THE GUYS ON THE PROJECT----THE RENT IS FORTY A MONTH, TWO USUABLE TYPEWRITERS AND TWO BROKEN ONES, ONE USUABLE MIMEOGRAPH, FOUR BROKEN RADIOS, ONE CAR (A VW OWNED I BOB LANDAU) ONE PAY TELEPHONE (WE HAVE TO QUARANTEE EIGHTEEN DOLLARS A MONTH ON IT

NEEDS: MONEY MONEY MONEY THE RENT IS TWO MONTHS OVERDUE AND THE PHONE BILL WAS JUST BARELY PAID LAST MONTH (JULY), THE ONLY MONEY WE HAVE IS THE WORKERS OWN AND THAT IS DOWN TO A BARE MINIMUM. MIMEO PAPER IS ALWAYS NEEDED AND WE HAVE ABOUT HALF A REAM LEFT OF THAT. THE EXPENSES ON THE ONE CAR (GAS~~Ø~~ AND REPAIRS RUN PRETTY HIGH DUE TO THE FACT THAT I~~T~~ IS BEING USED CONSTANTLY)

THE RENT IS ACTUALLY THE MOST IMPORTANT THING. THE GUY WE RENT FROM IS PRETTY GOOI BUT DUE TO THE FACT THAT THE HOTEL IS GOOD PROPERTY HE HINTS THAT HE CAN FIND BETTER USES FOR IT AND HE IS ALSO GETTING PRESSURE FROM THE GOOD WHITE FOLK OF PA. SO ALL IN ALL IT IS A PRETTY TOUCHY SITUATION. THE PHONE IS NEXT IN IMPORTANCE BECAUSE OF THE SECURE FEELING IT PROVIDES WHEN WE KNOW IT ISNOT DISCONNECTED. ALSO IF THE RADIOS COULD BE REPARED IT WOULD ADD GREATLY TO THAT FEELING OF SECURITY

Are you taking this into consideration for the Mississippi budget? GW

[1965, May]

Notice.

County Chairmen

Let's prepare now for the June Primary Elections. Rev. Clint Collier of Neshoba County is our Candidate for Congress . We must see that he wins. He has a platform for Social Change for Mississippi and the Whole Nation.

Let's Start Now By;

1. Electing our own Campaign Committee- Five strong people - One from each beat in the county.

2. Setting a place,date for a county wide Political Rally . This should be done right away. Set Your Sights High, and remember Plan Big.

3. See that all unregistered voters in your county are registered. The deadline to get registered is April 7th .

4. Holding Political Workshops in each beat in your county.

5. Keep the Jackson Office informed of your day to day plans and activities write the information in to the Office in Canton. By Feb. 27th,1966

Address -332 Lutz St.
Canton, Mississippi 39046

Your District Campaign Committee;

Mrs. Heildleburg - Meridian , Mississippi
Miss , Dorothy Gathright - Meridian , Mississippi
Rev. Killingsworth - Quitman , Mississippi
Mrs. Alcene Watson- Brandon , Mississippi
Mr. John Evans
Mrs. Fannie Brown

You are to elect your own County Committee .

[1964, Jan 4]

Congressmen supporting the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party January 4, 1964: Annunzio, Ashley, Ayres, Baldwin, Garrett, Bell, Bingham, Blatnik, Boland, Bolling, Brademas, Broomfield, Brown (Calif.), Burke, Burton (Calif) Byrne, (Pa.), Cahill, Cleveland, Clevenger, Cohelan, Conable, Conte, Conyers, Corman, Craley, Daddario, Daniels, Dawson, Dent, Denton, Diggs, Dingell, Donohue, Dow, Dulski, Dunca, (Oreg.), Dwyer, Dyal, Edwards (Calif.), Evans, (colo.), Farbstein, Farnsley, Farnum, ino, Ford (Wm.D), Fraser, Gallagher, Giaimo, Gilbert, Gilligan, Gonzalez, Grabowski, Green (Ore.), Gree (Pa.), Greigg, Griffiths, Halpern, Hanley, Hansen (Iowa), Harvey (Mich.) Hathaway, Hawkins, Helstoski, Holifield, Horton, Howard Huto, Irwin, Jackbs, Joelson, Harsten, Harth, Kastenmeier, King (Utah), XXIXXXXXXX Kluczynski, Krebs, Kunkel, Leggett, Lindsay, Long (Md.), Love, McCarthy, McDowell, McGrath, Macdonald, Mackie, Madden, Mailliard, Mathias, Miller, Minish, Mink, Morgan, Morse, Mosher, Murphy (Ill.) Nedzi, Nix, O'Brien, O'Hara (Ill.), O'Hara (Mich.), Olsen (Mont.) O'Newil (Mass), Patten, Philbin, Pike, Powell, Price, XXXXXX Pucinski, Race, Reid (NY), Resnick, Reuss, Rhodes (Pa), Rivers (Alaska), Rodino, Rogers (Colo), Ronan, Roncalio, Roomey (Pa), Roosevelt, Rosenthal, Rostenkowski, Royball, Ryan, St. Onge, Scheuer, Schisler, Schmidhauser, Schweiker, Shipley, Sickles, Stafford, Stalbaum, Stratton, Sullivan, Sweeney, Tenzer, Thompson (NJ), Todd, Tupper, Udall, Van Deerlin, V nik, Vivian, Wolff, Wydler, Yates.

[1964, March 20]

Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party.

Minutes of the State Executive Committee meeting held March 20th, Jackson .

Present:- Mrs Victoria Gray, Mrs Annie Devine, Mr. Robert Miles, Mr. Ralthus Hayes, Rev. Clint Collier, Rev. Ed King, Mrs. Unita Blackwell, Mrs Johnnie Mae Walker, Bruce Palmer, Jerry Blackwell, Sid Walker, Rita Walker, Ella Baker, Roberta Galler, Arthur Kinoy, Bill Kunstler, Morton Stavis, Al Bronstein, Don Jelinek, Mike Higson.

Minutes taken by Higson. Meeting chaired by Mrs. Gray.

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I. STRATEGY FOR THE PRIMARY ELECTIONS

Mrs Devine : First I should tell you about the campaign in the 4th District. Rev. Collier decided to stand for Congress - we approved of him at a meeting quite some time back. The people suggested what should go into his platform.

We have done some things. We had a rally at a Canton which raised some money. Now we need that money.. we are not going to do anything without funds. We have been into all the counties in this District but one. This one isn't too big a problem. It (Smith Co.) also happens to be the home county of the Representative - Prentis Walker.

Our problems are these : we need money, we need more staff and we need to get people registered. Unless we get more Federal Registrars into the District people are not going to be voting in large numbers.....

Rev. Collier : Are we still sticking to what we decided on Monday ?

Don Jelinek (L.C.D.C.): We, as lawyers (Kinoy , Kunstler, Stavis etc. etc.) have decided on a legal strategy.

Briefly,we believe that in about a week all candidates should file 4 sets of papers, or doing four things :

1. Informing Democratic committees of candidates intention to run,

2. Filing the fees with State treasurer

3. Filing affidavits with Secretary of State

4. Filing statement which refuses compliance with section 3129 of the Miss Code, which says that a candidate has to support the platform and principles of the State Dem. Party , and support the winner of the Primary.

Don Jelinek (cont.) If we are refused a place on the ballot then we file in Federal Court for the Primary election to be set back - for the court to rule on the constitutionality of section 3I29. We also demand more Federa registrars and time for registration . In this way we attack the entire State election system.

Al Bronstein (L.C.D.C.) : By stating right out in the open we won't agree with the statute you will be free to run in the general election

Jelinek: The mere fact of you entering Primary - without attacking that election law - means you accept that law.

Rev. Collier: What is the State Legislature going to do about the Bill to increase the number of signatures if a person is running as an Independent ?

Bronstein: There's no telling : if the Legislature sees what the FDP is doing it may pass the Bil in time to have an effect this year. At the moment it hasn't got further than the House.

Arthur Kinoy : The Legislature is going to try all kinds of tricks. The moment those develop we challenge them head-on.

We already have our suit on reapportionment. The reason we feel a challenge to this Primary law has merit, is that it put a finger on two facts :-

1. That the Mississippi Democratic Party is a recist party
2. That the Mississippi Primary structure perpetuates that racist structure.

Again , I think we can say - for IOI reasons - there hasn't been a fair opportunity for Negro citizens of this State to take advantage of the Voting Rights Act of I965. An election that is held when Negroes have not had chance of registering is a mockery.

Now if we don't succeed in stopping the Primaries we have not in any way hurt our chance to take part in the general election.

Mrs Devine : Suppose they say they don't mind us objecting to section 3I29. What then ?

Bronstein : We are saying the law shouldn't be on the books. They have to take action.

--------- Consensus of the meeting that we follow strategy lines explained by Jelinek, and approved in general by FDP meeting , March I4th (jackson).

3/ Executive Committee meeting , March 20th.

2. THE SUNFLOWER ELECTION :

Morton Stavis : The background to this election is that last April we went into court to stop the city election in Sunflower City. We argued that since Negroes hadn't had chance to register it was unfair to stick us with officials, like Mayor, for another 4 years. The District Court refused to delay the election. We appealed this decision to the Appeals Court. Their answer was the same.. but they said the elections could (if there was a case) be set aside at a later date.

Well, the election was held. Last October; we appealed it, and last week the court decided to overturn the election in Sunflower City.

Now its possible the same thing can happen in other towns in Sunflower Co. providing we have "proper" plaintiffs.

We are now in a situation where we will shortly be appearing before Judge Clayton and finding out when the election will be held. There are many points to be cleared up.. a registration cut-off date has to be decided by the court.. the court may have to decide if illegally elected officials have the power to appoint Board of Election Commissioners.

We had a meeting in Sunflower City, Friday night . It was a good one. There were about 100 people there - the town is only 650 strong (about 75% Negro) - and we talked about the new election I think they saw the real possibility that they could elect an all-Negro Mayor and Board of Aldermen.

Mr. Miles: Even if we go all out to get Fed. Registrars in, there is a State law which says that people have to be registered 4 months before a city election.

Stavis : It seems to me that the Appeals Court in its decision has said that the District Court (Clayton's court) must disregard State law if it feels that this is needed to make the election a fair one.

Kinoy : The main legal work is over. The work is now yours'.

You know what is now possible ? For the first time in a Hundred years you can have a Negro Government in the heart of the Cotton Belt in Mississippi. That's what the people in Sunflower were saying. Think what this means to the Negro people in this country. This is where the Movement has been headed since it started .. and that is- CHANGE OF POWER.

It is up to the FDP now to accept the challenge. This is something we all must unite behind. If the FDP says this on a national level maybe we can get Federal Registrars into Sunflower Co. Now I see that the only way we can make the Voting Rights Act effective is to see it put into action in this Sunflower situation.

Kunstler: Legal victory has now got to be translated into a people's victory.

Kinoy : We have to recognize there's still fear in Sunflower Its not that people are afraid to go courthouse so much as economic fear. Its economic rather than physical. There were 100 people at this meeting , Friday, and of that hundred only three had a job to go to the next morning. And one of those three people was not from Sunflower.

Bronstein: What/this means in practical terms? ~~xxkxxmkxxxsxkxx~~ Are you going to take people from other areas, money from other areas - for Sunflower .

Mrs. Gray: We were there - we had a long session with the people in Sunflower and these were some of the things we discussed. But certainly we are going to have to come up with more staff and money.

Kinoy : You know there are some things you can expect to see happening in Sunflower. The Whites will try and pick a Negro who listens to what they say. They will pick him to run on their ticket. And then there's the possibility there will be buying of votes.. you know $25 and $50's being spent in this way, or people may be bought off by promises of work. All these things can happen.

Collier That's very true. If there are no jobs in Sunflower people are under White man's pressure. We ought to think what we can do to help people.. at least in terms of clothing and food.

Ella Baker: This little town and its election is a symbol .. it represents a way - and some people will see it this way - of hitting back at Eastland. There are many who would like to do this, to see it happen. I can see support coming in as long as things are moving.

I've been reading again about Reconstruction. It strikes me that if you want to understand what happened during Reconstruction you only have to see what is happening now.

Ed King: If one person wins in Sunflower this will be an incentive for next year's local elections. This election I see as being at least as vital as the congressional elections , if not more so.

Kinoy : There has to be some call to action from the FDP executive committee, not only to Mississippi , but to the whole nation.

Gray And I think we should also ask for the cooperation of all other organizations in this State. We should issue an invitation to cooperate in this Sunflower election.

That's one step. The other is to start work in Sunflower immediately . You know there were good things about our meetings in Sunflower. On the other hand there were people at that meeting who didn't know one thing about City government. They didn't know the name of one of the City aldermen. So we have a great deal of work to do.

Devone OK we need money for voter registration. Where can we get it ? Maybe Sunflower will help. I wonder if we can get any money from V.E.P.

Roberta Galler: You have to keep expenditures of V.E.P. (Voter Education Project) separate from other activities. But getting VEP money doesen't mean you cannot do other things besides voter registration.

Baker: I have doubts that they will fund a state-wide VEP project. ..good though to get in an application to run a v/r/ project in Sunflower County.
I think you have to realize something about VEP. Its a program that's run by the Southern Regional Council. Its tied in with the Democratic machine, and its (VEP) head is a man called Vernon Jordan. Now Mr. Jordan is a former field secretary for the NAACP. I think there's no doubt, with or without Mr. Jordan, that NAACP will be getting VEP funds.
But the FDP ? The Democratic organization doesent want to encourage the type of political thinking that FDP goes in for. But I think we know that.

Jerry Blackwell: I would like to raise again the idea that came up at Monday's meeting. I mean the one about having Registrars registering people at the commodity houses. I think myself this is a way of getting folks on the books. And another thing lets use the school kids in Sunflower this Thursday and Friday. The schools are out because of the teachers meeting

Mrs Gray I think some of us should go up there and start work tomorrow and be prepared to stay several days.

---------- IT was DECIDED
1. That one or two persons from the Executive Committee go into Sunflower immediately.
2. That planning with people in Sunflower begin right away
3. That a proposal asking for VEP funds for Sunflower Co be drawn up.
4. That a call-to-action go out to State and rest of country. And that we ask cooperation from other groups in Miss.

3. STATE CONVENTIONS ....DELEGATES.

Mrs Gray: I'm concerned about the loo se way we run our State meetings. I mean they are structured so loosely that a group which wanted to take over, could come in and do just thst. Now I think this is bad.
The way out.. I'm going to suggest that the next Convention is attended only by delegates from the various counties. The counties will elect the people they want to go to the Convention.

Galler: There's a difference between State meetings and conventions.

Gray : Yes, I agree. But there must be a limit to which people can participate, can vote.

Devine: I see a need for both . We need both State meetings and Conventions.

6/ Executive committee meeting. March 20th.

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------- Reccommended and agreed that: Jackson office find guidelines used for selecting delegates to the July I964 FDP Convention.. that a delegate system be adopted for all future FDP Conventions.

HOUSING:

Higson: Today there was a meeting at Tribbet of Frank Smith's Neighborhood Developers ~~fx~~ Inc. People were to come from the Delta to see ~~in~~ the houses there that are being put up for the 7/ or 8 families at Tribbett. They were also to consider some type of plan to enable them to choose the I00 families who will live in the I00 houses the group is trying to build. If you remember the meeting on Feb. 20th, a Tom Carter from the OEO got up and promised Frank that the money - ½ million dollars - would be through in 90 days. Yesterday F the group had a telegram of support from I4 Congressmen. Do we feel we should do the sama.

Mrs. Blackwell: Now I'm wondering about all these houses. There's a group here wanting to buold houses and a group there wanting to do the same thing. There's about four of them to my mind. And they are all saying they want to help poor people. Well I wander if they are all going to get funded. I wonder if they have got together... are their efforts co-ordinated ?

--------- After more discussion. the Committee decided to write Neighborhood Developers Inc for more information.

--------- The Committee also decided that further investigation was needed before it could reach a decision on whether to ask for a House Judiciary Hearing in Miss. on the subversion of the I964 Civil Rights Bill , and the I965 Voting Rights Act.

FINANCE :

Mr. Miles : I am going to stress again the importance of my getting regular financial reports, and of the field getting the same. My committee, the Finance sub committee can hardly function without them.

We are asking counties what they can support the Jackson office with. For instance I know that Issaquena , Sharkey and Holmes are sending in funds. But I don't know all of them.

Jerry Blackwell: We are having a county meeting April I0th in Issaquena and these people will be looking for a report If there isn't one I can see trouble.

---------- Committee decided to ask for financial report from Mrs. Hazel Palmer by the forthcoming week-end. Agreed that this should be sent to all counties.

STUDENTS - SUMMER PROJECT :

---------- After a short discussion the Committee decided that it would not be asking for a large number of students this summer. Agreed that the FDP should ask for people with specific skills.. that a survey should be made to find what staff was needed.. that counties should be consulted on this.

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Population of Sunflower City - 662.

Present Mayor of Sunflower - William Patterson.

Mr Patterson is a plantation owner.

Aldermen - Robert W. Powell
J. B. Komine
J. H. Henry
A. B. McCarty
Joel T. Parker.

City Clerk. — W. C. Curry

Sunflower City is about 75% Negro

FILE [1964]

MEETING IN ATLANTA WITH SNCC...

by David Dennis

SNCC plans to begin a project of having 2,000 students come to Washington in June to lobby in behalf of the FDP. These students are to remain in Washington for a period of three weeks. During part of their stay they will ATTEND Freedom Schools to discuss the political structure of the country and how it affects the country. They will discuss political and economic problems and methods of change. The purpose is to prepare these students to go back to their communities at the end of this three week period and begin to organize their community with emphasis around the FDP and community problems. It is felt that this could be the beginning of the setting up of a political base from which the movement can speak from.

These students will be from middle class communities with middle class ties and contacts which will probably make them quite effective with their congressmen. There are also plansto involve southern students in this project

RECRUITMENT

Much discussion was done about methods to recruuit these students. The first suggestion was that a planning conference be held in Chicago around the middle of April with representatives from the major collegse in the country which would be approximately 100 to 150 students. The other idea was to hold the conference on the 16th of April which would be one day before the march on Washington by the student peace groups which will be demonstrating on the 17th. At this conference the summer program will be explained and regional workshops will be planned for the month of May to begin screening and preparing students for the project.

There are also plans for distributing literature and sending personnel to other conferences that will be held during the Easter vacation period (NSA, etc.)

Bob and Donna will co-ordinate the Easter conference in Washington.

SNCC is to draft a letter to be sent to all cpntacts informing people about the EASTER conference. CORE should receive a copy of the letter during the week from which we will decide if we want to send it to the CORE chapters.

I suggest that we place a person in the Washington office so that we can be a part of the project. Richard has suggested that we send Richard Tinsley to represent CORE. Bob and Donna will be going to Washington Tuesday.

FDP SUMMER PROJECT
The FDR plans to have a summer project in Mississippi this summer. They plan to recruit 500 students to work in Mississippi in order to educate and inform people about the FDP and its program and at the same time recruit them as members of the party. This would mean revitalizing the precinct meetings and county meetings.

We should also become active in this project.

SUGGESTIONS

One of our basic problems is that we are not in contact with the FDP which causes us not to be in much of a position to give aid which I strongly feel we should be. Our only solution to this problem is to invest by putting staff in the FDP office. Ithink that we should be able to put one staff person in Washinfton and a couple of volunteers. These people would keep us abreast as to what is happening and suggest actions that we can take in order to be helpful. I also feel taht our Northern chapters can be very helpful and it might serve as a stimulus for them to begin real communiyy organization.

We should also try to find a way to involve southern college students in the summer project in Washington. I think that this would be very educational to them and help to become better acquainted with the problems that we are attempting to confront in the political arena.

C1962

MISSISSIPPI FREEDOM DEMOCRATIC PARTY
1353 U Street N.W.
Washington, D.C.
332-7732

APPROXIMATE TIME TABLE OF THE STATUTORY CHALLENGE

The challenges to the contested Congressmen will be filed in accordance with a formal statute of Congress whcih outlines the exact steps to be followed whenever the right to hold a seat in the House of Representatives is challenged. This statute is Title 2 of the United States Code, Section 201. This is a formal law of Congress and is not a part of the rules or precedents of the House which could be subject to change.

The formal challenges must be filed within 30 days after the certification of the results of the elections. The challenges will be served on the contested representatives personally and by mail. They will be in written form and will set forth in full the reasons why the challenges are made, outlining why the Mississippi elections and political system are in total violation of the federal constitution.

The challenged members then are requested to answer the charges within thirty days. Their answer will be due on about Jan. 2nd. They must send their formal answers to the challengers.

After the challenged men have answered in writing, the law provides that the contestants have a period of forty days within which to use federal subpoena power to take testimony throughout the state of Mississippi to support the charges in the challenges. They will seek to prove that the Mississippi elections violated the Constitution and occured in an atmosphere of terror and coercion. This testimony will be taken in open public hearings throughout the State. If local federal judges refuse to issue these subpoenas, immediate emergency appeals can be taken to the higher Federal Courts. The subpoenas must be obeyed under penalty of contempt of court. This period of time for full public testimony throughout Mississippi would run until approximately Febuary 10th.

The challenged representatives then have forty days to take whatever testimony they want. They may or may not use this time. If they do, this takes the period until approximately March 20th.

The challengers then have 10 days to take rebuttal testimony. At the conclusion of this period all the evidence is formally mailed to the clerk of the House of Representatives. The challengers and challenged individuals are personally summoned to appear before the Clerk. Decision is then made as to how much of this record will be printed by the public printer. This period of time will probably run until about May 1st. The printed briefs are then distributed to the House Committee on elections and privileges.

The contestants have 30 days to file their brief and the challenged parties have 30 days to answer. This period runs until about July 1st.

At this point the entire challenge is placed before the Subcommittee on elections and privileges of the House of Representatives which has jurisdiction over the controversy. This Committee then must make the decision as to whether formal public hearings will be held before the Committee. The Committee will then vote on its position and present this in a resolution to the House of Representatives. These political decisions by the Sub-Committee and the House would probably come to a head sometime during July, 1965.

[1964]

Platform add Principles
of the
Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party

The Freedom Democra tic Party, believing that racial equality is only the first step in solving the basic problems of powrty, disease and illiteracy confronting Americam society, wolcomesthe partiei.pation of all Mississippi citizens in a joint effort to realize the goals of economic growth and individual self-fulfillment in a spirit of humane concern for the welfare of every person.

With all humility we ask the guidance of Almighty God in these difficult times. May hispower and spirit fill us all as we approach these problems that beset us all.

We pledge to support the candidates and principlesadoptedby the National Democratic Party at itsconvention in Atlantic City in August, 1964.

National Affairs

BE IT RESOLVED:

1. That we support the 1960 national Democratic Party platform, specifically insofar as the following principlesapply to the State of Mississippi.

   a. Full employment as a fundamental objective of national policy and the necessity for federal aid to the depressed areas of Mississippi and the rest of the nation.

   b. Strong state and national action to eliminate artificial barriers to employment based on race, sex, religion, or national origin.

   c. The right to a job requiresthe full restoration of collective bargaining, and the repeal of anti-labor legislation designed to prevent the effective organization of unions.

   d. The right of every farmer, tenant, sharecropper and migrant worker to a decent living through the raising of farm incomes and wages, national and state legislation affecting wages and living conditions, food stamp programs to feed needy children, the aged and the unemployed, and the expansion of school lunch and milk programs.

   e. Medical care benefits to be provided aspart of the Social Security insurance system.

2. That we wholehaeartedly endorse the program emodied in the Civil Rights Law of 1964 and that we demand both state and national officials to implement the principles of this law.

3. That we insist that all officials of the state and national governments take steps to ensure the impartial registration of all qualified voters in the State of Mississippi. We urge vigorous enforcement of the civil

rights laws to guarantee the right to vote to allcitigens in all areas of the country. We urge the abolition of the literacy test as a voting requirement. We further urge use of the 14th amendment clause which allows for a reduction in Congressional representation when qualified voters are not registered.

4. That we vigorously support the Supreme Court school desegregation decision of 1954 and demand that immediate measure should be undertaken by the state and national governments to guarantee that the decision be implemented in the State of Mississippi.

5. That we support the Supreme Court re-apportionment decision of 1964 and call for a just system of representation in every legislative body in the United Statesconsistent with the principle that each individual hasan equal vote.

6. That we believe that an extensive job re-training program should be vigorously pursued by both the state and national governments in order that middle-aged people who are victimes of an era of economic transition may continue to be self-sufficient members of the community.

7. That we applaud the start which has been made toward the amelioration of poverty under Presidents John F. Kennedy and Lyndon B. Johnson in such measures as area redevelopment, a broadened minimum wage, manpower training, food stamp legislation, and the omnibus anti-poverty measure. We call for the intensification of these programs during the next four yearsunder continued liberal Demorcratic leadership and for the integration of these efforts with a creative public works program.

8. That we strongly endorse the efforts of Presidents John F. Kennedy and Lyndon B. Johnson to achieve international development and cooperation through such measuresas support of the United Nations, a vigorous foreign aid program, attempts to bring about control of nuclear weapons, and the creation of the Peace Corps.

9. That we applaud the advance of freedom throughout the world and advocate American cooperation with the United Nations in a peaceful effort to eradicate tyranny inthese areas of the world--such as South Africa, Angola, Southern Rhodesia, Hungary, and Easy Germany--where it still prevails.

10. That we oppose attempts by any nation or bloc to impose alien political systems or ideologies--communist or otherwise--on any other nation.

11. That we vigorously condemn extremist and hate groups such as the Klu Klux Klan, the White Citizens' Council, and the Association for the Preservation of the White Race.

Mississippi Affairs

BE IT RESOLVED:

1. That we urge careful consideration of the use of federal funds in Mississippi to ensure that such grants will not be used for the perpetuation of segregation.

   Specifically:

   a. That we oppose the use of federal funds for the construction or maintenance of segregated community facilities in Mississippi.

   b. That we advocate the establishment of a state Fair Employment Practices Committee to assist in reviewing cases of employment discrimination.

2. That we advocate careful supervision of the use of federal funds in order that the withholding of federal funds will no longer be used as a means to threaten and harass Mississippi citizens who try to exercise their constitutional rights.

3. That we look for the appointment of federal referees to supervise all Mississippi electoral procedures- from the first attempt to register to vote to the final counting of ballots- until all citizens of the state can rest assured of a meaningful voice in a democratic society.

4. That we advocate a substantial reduction in the state sales tax and a proportionate increase in the income tax.

5. That we condemn the use of state tax monies to support the Sovereignty Commission and other organizations whose aim is to perpetuate the segregated society.

PUBLIC ACCOMMODATIONS

1. We resolve that the Public Accommodations and Public Facilities sections of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 be enforced.

2. We demand new and better recreation facilities for all.

3. We support the right of the Negro people and their white supporters to test the Civil Rights Act via demonstrations such as sit-ins. We are not urging a bloodbath through this means; we are simply demanding our Constitutional right to public assembly and seeking to test the Federal government's position.

4. Conversion of public accommodations into private clubs should be treated as a violation of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

HOUSING

The home, being the center of a child's life as well as the center of a family's, must have certain facilities in order for it to be a home and not just a building in which one eats, sleeps, and prepares to leave for the rest of the day.

Therefore, be it resolved:

1. That there be an equal-opportunity-to-buy law which permits all persons to purchase a home in any section of town in which he can afford to live,
2. That a rent control law be passed and that one should pay according to the condition of the house,
3. That a building code for home construction be established which includes the following minimum housing requirements:
   a. a complete bathroom unit
   b. a kitchen sink
   c. a central heating system
   d. insulated walls and ceiling
   e. a laundry room and pantry space
   f. an adequate wiring system providing for at least three electrical outlets in the living room and kitchen, and at least two such outlets in the bedroom and bathroom,
   g. at least a quarter of an acre of land per building lot.
   h. a basement and attic.
4. That zoning regulations be enacted and enforced to keep undesirable and unsightly industries and commercial operations away from residential neighborhoods,,
5. That slums be cleared, and a low-cost federal housing project be established to house these people,
6. That federal aid be given for the improvement of houses, with long-term, low-interest loans,
7. That the federal government provide money for new housing developments in in the state. Anyone could buy these houses with a down payment and low monthly rate. There must be absolutely no discrimination. The federal government should take action if this law is not complied with.
8. That a federal law make sure that the projects are integrated and that they are run fairly,
9. That there be lower taxes on improvements in the houses so that more people will fix up their homes,
10. That the federal government buy and sell land at low rates to people who want to build homes.

EDUCATION

In an age where machines are rapidly replacing manual labor, job opportunities and economic security increasingly require higher levels of education. We therefore demand:

1. Better facilities in all schools. These would include textbooks, laboratories, air conditioning, heating, recreation, and lunch rooms.
2. A broader curriculum including vocational subjects and foreign languages,
3. Low-fee adult classes for better jobs,
4. That the school year consist of nine (9) consecutive months,
5. Exchange programs and public kindergartens,
6. Better-qualified teachers with salaries according to qualification,
7. Forced retirement (women at 62, men at 65),
8. Special schools for mentally retarded and treatment and care of cerebral palsy victims,
9. That taxpayers' money not be used to provide private schools,
10. That all schools be integrated and equal throughout the country,
11. Academic freedom for teachers and students,
12. That teachers be able to join any political organization to fight for Civil Rights without fear of being fired,
13. That teacher brutality be eliminated.

HEALTH

1. Each school should have fully-developed health, first aid, and physical education programs. These programs should be assisted by at least one registered nurse.

2. Mobile units, chest x-rays semi-annually and a check-up at least once a year by licensed doctors, the local health department or a clinic should be provided by the local or state government.

3. All medical facilities should have both integrated staff and integrated facilities for all patients.

4. Mental health facilities should be integrated and better staffed.

5. Homes for the aged should be created.

6. Free medical care should be provided for all those who are not able to pay the cost of hospital bills.

7. We demand state and local government inspection of all health facilities.

8. All doctors should be paid by skill, not by race.

9. Titles should be given to the staff.

10. The federal government should help the organization pay the salaries of workers.

11. All patients should be addressed properly.

12. We actively seek the abolition of any sterilization act which serves punishment, voluntary or involuntary, for any offense.

13. In a reasonable time we seek the establishment of a center for the treatment and care of cerebral palsy victims.

FOREIGN AFFAIRS

1. The United States should stop supporting dictatorships in other countries, and should support that government which the majority of the people want.

2. Whereas the policy of apartheid in the Republic of South Africa is detrimental to all the people of that country and against the concepts of equality and justice, we ask that the United States impose economic sanctions in order to end this policy.

3. We ask that there be an equitable balance between the domestic and foreign economic and social support provided by our country.

FEDERAL AID

1. We demand that a public works program be set up by the federal government to create jobs for the unemployed.

2. Because of discrimination in the past, we demand preferential treatment for the Negro in the granting of federal aid in education and training programs until integration is accomplished.

3. To help fight unemployment, we demand that federal funds be lent communities to set up industries and whole towns which shall be publicly owned by the communities. For example:textile and paper mills, stores, schools, job relocation programs for those put out of work by automation, job retraining centers, recreational facilities, banks, hospitals.

4. We demand that social security benefits should be given according to need, and not according to how much one earned previously. In addition, we demand guaranteed income of at least $3,000 annually for every citizen.

5. The federal government should give aid to students who wish to study for the professions and who do not have the necessary funds.

6. We feel that federal aid in Mississippi is not being distributed equally among the people. Therefore we adopt Title VI of the Civil Rights Law which deals with federal aid. We demand federal agents appointed to Mississippi expressly for this purpose. We demand that action be taken against the State of Mississippi so that this aid may be distributed fairly.

7. We demand that the federal government divert part of the funds now used for defense into additional federal aid appropriations.

8. We demand that the federal government refuse to contract with corporations that employ non-union labor, engage in unfair labor practices, or practice racial discrimination.

JOB DISCRIMINATION

1. We demand: That the federal government immediately open to Negroes all employment opportunities and recruitment programs under its auspices, such as in post offices, Veterans Hospitals and defense bases.

2. That the fair employment section (Title VII) of the 1964 Civil Rights Law be immediately and fully enforced.

3. The guarantee of fair employment be extended fully to all aspects of labor, particularly job training programs.

4. We encourage the establishment of more unions in Mississippi, to attract more industry to the state.

5. We will encourage and support more strikes for better jobs and adequate pay. During the strikes the employers should be enjoined from having others replace the striking workers.

6. Vocational institutions must be established for high school graduates and dropouts.

7. The federal minimum wage law be extended to include <u>all</u> workers, especially agricultural and domestic workers.

8. Cotton planting allotments to be made on the basis of family size.

9. We want an extension of the Manpower Retraining program.

10. Whenever a factory is automated, management must find new jobs for the workers.

11. Workers should be paid in accordance with their qualifications and the type of work done.

THE PLANTATION SYSTEM

1. The federal government should force plantation owners to build and maintain fair tenant housing.

2. In cases where the plantation farmers are not being adequately paid according to the Minimum Wage Law, the government should intervene on behalf of the farmers in a suit against the plantation owner.

CIVIL LIBERTIES

1. Citizens of Mississippi should be entitled to employ out-of-state lawyers.
2. Section Two of the Fourteenth Amendment should be enforced, specifically in Mississippi and other Southern States, until the voter registration practices are changed.

3. The citizens should have the privilege of exercising their Constitutional rights

a. to assemble,
b. to petition,
c. to freedom of the press,
d. to freedom of speech

in such ways as picketing, passing out leaflets and demonstrations. We oppose all laws that deprive citizens of the above rights.

4. We want the abolition of the House Unamerican Activities Committee because it deprives citizens of their Constitutional rights.

5. We resolve that the Freedom Movement should accept people regardless of religion, race, political views or national origin if they comply with the rules of the movement.

LAW ENFORCEMENT

1. We want qualified Negroes appointed to the police force in large numbers. We want them to be able to arrest anyone breaking the law, regardless of race, creed or color.

2. All police must possess warrants when they demand to enter a house and search the premises. In the absence of a search warrant, the police must give a reasonable explanation of what they are looking for. In any case, with or without a warrant, no damage should be done unnecessarily to property, and if damage is done, it should be paid for.

3. A national committee should be set up to check police procedures, to insure the safety of people in jail: their food, sleeping and health facilities; to protect them from mobs, and see that no violence is done to them.

4. All cases against law enforcement agencies or involving civil rights should be tried in federal courts.

5. Law enforcement officials should provide protection against such hate groups as the KKK. Police and public officials should not belong to any group that encourages or practices violence.

CITY MAINTENANCE

1. The city should finance paving and widening of the streets and installing of drain systems in them.
2. Sidewalks must be placed along all paved streets.
3. A better system of garbage disposal, including more frequent pickups, must be devised.
4. Streets should be adequately lighted.
5. We oppose nuclear testing in residential areas.

VOTING

1. The poll tax must be eliminated.
2. Writing and interpreting of the Constitution is to be eliminated.
3. We demand further that registration procedures be administered without discrimination, and that all intimidation of prospective voters be ended through federal supervision and investigation by the FBI and Justice Department.

4. We want guards posted at ballot boxes during counting of votes.

5. The minimum age for voting should be lowered to 18 years.

6. We seek for legislation to require the county registrar or one of his deputies to keep the voter registration books open five days a week except during holidays, and open noon hours and early evening so that they would be accessible to day workers. Registrars should be required by law to treat all people seeking to register equally.

DIRECT ACTION

1. To support Ruleville, we call for a state-wide school demonstration, urging teachers to vote, and asking for better, integrated schools.
2. We support nonviolence, picketing and demonstrations.

[1964]

Memorandum

To: Mississippi Staff and **community leaders**

Re: Freedom Registration

Freedom Registration presents the COFO staff with a huge job; that of organizing communities well enough to get 300,000 people on the books by the November election. Additional pressure comes from the fact that COFO's whole political program depends greatly on the success of the Freedom Registration campaign.

Some important facts about Freedom Registration:

1) Freedom Registration is for <u>both registered and non-registered voters</u>. (Everyone over 21)
2) Only those registered on the Freedom Registration books will be eligible to;
   a) vote in the November Freedom Election,
   b) or to attend either the Precinct meetings, or County, District, State or National Conventions.
3) Part of the job of the Freedom Registration Campaign is to "show the state officials" how they can get hundreds of thousands of Negroes on the registration books in just seven months.
4) The Freedom Registration Campaign demonstrates what we think to be the <u>only</u> necessary requirements for voting. People do <u>not</u> have to be able to read or write in order to register on the Freedom Registration books. Registrars will fill out forms for illiterate registrants. Such people will sign with "X's" in the presence of signed witnesses.

The following is a plan for the organization of the campaign which is mostly a product of COFO conventions and staff meetings.

Registrar:

1) There will be 82 registrars; 1 in each county.

2) The registrar will be responsible for-

a) organizing the county seat; making sure that every eligible person there is registered on our books. In some areas such as Hattiesburg and Greenwood they have found that the best way to organize on the city level is with a " Block Captain " system.

b) organizing the entire county by keeping in constant contact with the deputy registrars in his county. The registrar should hold frequent meetings with the deputy registrars; getting continuous reports from them as to how many people they have registered.

c) having a complete record of all the registered freedom voters in his county. This means that the Deputy Registrars have to turn in their forms to the Registrar when they have been filled out. The registrar will then section his book off according to the towns in his county; so that when the books are handed in to the State office we will be able to see exactly how many people have registered in each area.

d) calling in frequently to his local COFO office and the state office in Jackson to report the number of people registered.

Deputy Registrar:

1) There should be as many deputy registrars as we can possibly get. Hopefully we will have one in every town in a given county, with the exception of the county seat.

2) Deputy Registrars should keep in close contact with the registrars in their counties; keeping them informed of the

number of people they have registered.

3) Deputy registrars will probably find it helpful to organize their towns into sections with section leaders and block captains.

COFO staff:

At this stage the staff will have the job of organizing on the district level and generally getting the Freedom Registration Campaign off the ground.

The staff will be

1) finding registrars in every county in the district-who will be based in the county seat.

2) finding deputy registrars in every town other than the county seat, who will be directly responsible to the registrar in that county.

3) setting up meetings where either the local staff person or someone from the Jackson office can come and explain Freedom Registration. Such meetings also provide good opportunities for getting people registered.

4) keeping in constant contact with Jackson by phone in order to avoid duplication since many registrars will be set up via the WATS line.

When the initial stages of the campaign are over and it is well underway, we hope that the campaign in each county will be in the hands of the local registrar there. The Freedom Registration campaign is a unique opportunity for us to build strong local leadership.

Materials:

1) Each registrar should be equipped with

a) registration book(s) with forms and

b) Freedom Registration Brochures. (People cannot fill out the forms in these brochures themselves and send them to Jackson. They must be filled out in the presence of the registrar, who will then sign his name and keep the completed form.)

2) Freedom Registration books can be obtained, only after the name of the registrar has been turned in, by calling Jackson collect and requesting them. They will be sent out as soon as possible.

3) As progress is made and more books are needed, registrars should call the Jackson office with a request for them.

There will be a chart set up in the Jackson office and monthly memos will be sent to all registrars, deputy registrars and COFO staff members, to keep everyone informed of how the Freedom Registration Campaign is progressing.

[1964]

To: COFO Staff and Community Leaders
Re: Freedom Candidates

Four Negroes are running for Congress in Mississippi this year. These candidates are in a sense our candidates, and we must therefore do all we can to wage an effective campaign for them.

The candidates are the following:

Second Congressional District: Fannie Lou Hamer of Ruleville. She is running against the Democratic incumbent, Jamie Whitten.

Third Congressional District: James M. Houston or Vicksburg. He is running against the Democratic incumbent, Robert Bell Williams.

Fifth Congressional District: Reverend John E. Cameron of Hattiesburg. He is running against the Democratic incumbent, William Colmer

U. S. Senate: Victoria Jo Gray of Hattiesburg. She is running against the Democratic incumbent, John C. Stennis.

These persons are entered in the June 2, 1964, primary election. This means we have little more than a month to do what we intend to do for them.

The following are necessities:

1) The formation of a campaign committee in every community. This committee will be responsible for the following arrangements: a) Fund drives, b) Speaking places, and c) Publicity.
2) Daily door-to-door canvassing talking about the candidates and telling the community who they are and that they are coming to the community soon in order to speak.
3) People should speak about Mrs. Gray and her campaign at every meeting throughout the state.

If these three things are done and done well, there will be a fairly respectable campaign undertaken by us for the candidates. Furthermore, the campaign will utilize very little of our own money--which we don't have anyway!

[1964]

WHEREAS, the traditional Democratic Party of Mississippi is undemocratically constituted because it discriminates against large numbers of citizens; and

WHEREAS, the traditional Democratic Party of Mississippi does not support the platform and policies of the national Democratic Party; and

WHEREAS, the traditional Democratic Party of Mississippi in 1960 did not support the nominees of the Democratic National Convention despite a pledge made at the convention by leaders of the Mississippi Democratic Party; and

WHEREAS, a Freedom Democratic Party is being established in the state of Mississippi which is open to all citizens regardless of race, which will support the national platform and candidates, and which is being sponsored by a coalition of civil rights and liberal organizations; and

WHEREAS, the Freedom Democratic Party plans to seek to be seated in place of the delegation from the traditional Democratic Party of Mississippi at the 1964 Democratic National Convention;

Now therefore be it resolved that the 1964 California Democratic Council convention urge the California delegation at the forthcoming national convention to take all appropriate action to seat the delegates from the Freedom Democratic Party of Mississippi if they should petition for credentials and to deny credentials to the delegates from the traditional Democratic Party of Mississippi.

This resolution was adopted unanimously by the 2,600 delegates to the California Democratic Council meeting in Long Beach, February 21-23. Introduced to the resolutions committee by George Ballis of Fresno and carried there by Claude Hurst of Fresno and Beverly Axelrod of San Francisco.

[1964]

The Democratic Party in Mississippi

Precincts

The precinct is the smallest political unit. A precinct is usually a part of a supervisor's district (called a "beat"). Each county has five beats. Since there are usually two or three precincts to a supervisor's district (beat), there are usually at least ten or fifteen precincts in a county. Some counties have many more precincts, other counties have fewer precincts.

The precinct convention is the only convention open to all voters in an area. Usually the precinct conventions are poorly attended, so any good-sized number of people can probably control a precinct convention.

Any registered voter can attend the convention of his precinct. The convention is announced in the paper at least ten days before it is to take place. The meeting must be held at 10 a.m.; usually the meeting is on a Tuesday morning.

At the precinct convention delegates to the county convention are chosen. The number of delegates is decided earlier by the County Democratic Executive Committee; usually from one to six delegates are chosen. The votes may be split in half and twice as many actual delegates chosen. Usually there are alternate delegates chosen for each of the elected delegates, thus again doubling the size of the delegation. The precinct convention is run by majority vote and by rules decided by majority vote.

We intend to challenge precinct meetings in about 15 or 20 precincts by having registered and unregistered Negroes attempt to attend the meetings in the desired precincts. This will be the basis for our national challenge and is of utmost importance. After the challenge we will begin our duplicate Freedom Democratic precinct meetings which will parallel the regular Democratic meetings.

Counties

The county convention meets at least one week after the precinct conventions and is attended by the elected delegates from the precinct conventions of that county. The time and place for the county convention is decided by the County Democratic Executive Committee. Usually this information is published in the paper, so care must be taken not to miss the information when it appears in the county paper. Only the delegates elected at the precinct conventions are allowed admittance to the county convention, pointing up the importance of the precinct conventions.

The county convention selects delegates to the district and state conventions. Each county elects delegates equal to twice the number of representatives that county has in the Mississippi House of Representatives. Many times each vote is split in half, so twice as many delegates are elected, and an alternate is then elected for each half vote delegate. For example Issaquena County has one representative in the Mississippi House of Representatives. That means there are two votes from that county at the district and state conventions. If each elected delegate is given half a vote, then there will be four delegates from Issaquena County. If an alternate is elected for each delegate, then there will be eight people elected. An alternate takes the place of a delegate who cannot attend a convention for some reason. Thus Issaquena County would send eight people to the other conventions: four of the people would have half votes, and the remaining four would be alternates. These delegates attend both the district and state conventions.

The county convention also elects the County Democratic Executive Committee which has fifteen members. This committee appoints poll watchers, counts votes, and is the county political body.

Districts

The district conventions are held at least a week after the county conventions. There are five district conventions--one for each congressional district. At the district convention 6 delegates, each with half a vote, are chosen to go to the National Democratic Convention. Three alternate delegates are also chosen. The National Democratic Convention is where the selection of the Democratic candidate for the President of the United States is made.

Three members of the State Democratic Executive Committee are chosen at the convention.

Also one candidate for Democratic Presidential elector is chosen

State

At the state convention, which is held at least a week after the last of the district conventions, the rest of the delegates to the National Democratic Convention are chosen. Mississippi has 24 votes at the National Democratic Convention. The Jackson Clarion Ledger indicates that they will be sending 68 people: 46 delegates and 22 alternates. This means that two people have whole votes and the rest half votes. This means that the state convention will elect 14 delegates, two of whom will have whole votes, and 7 alternates.

The state convention also elects the National Democratic Committeman and the National Democratic Committeewoman. These two people sit on the Democratic National Committee; this is the committee in charge of policy for the party between conventions.

The selection of the State Democratic Executive Committee that was made on the district level is ratified (okayed) at the state convention. The State Democratic Executive Committee is the policy body for the Democratic party throughout the state.

STATE CONVENTION

1. Elect 14 delegates to the National Con.
2. Elects a Nat. Comm. man and woman

National Democratic Convention

District Caucus:
1. Elects 6 delegates and 3 alternates to the Nat. Conv.
2. Elects 3 members of the State Democratic Exec. Comm.
3. Elects one (1) Presidential Elector

District Caucus | District Caucus | District Caucus | District Caucus | District Caucus

County Convention:
1. Elects 4 times the no. of Reps. in the Miss. House of Reps. to the District Caucus and State Convention. 2. Elects 15 people to the County Democratic Executive Comm.
3. The number of delegates elected will vary from county to county.
4. It is important to note that the same people go to both the District Caucus and the State Convention,

County Convention | County Convention | County Convention | County Convention | County Convention | County Convention | County Convention

Precinct Meeting: Meetings are open to all Registered voters
1. 1 to 6 delegates are elected to the county convention
2. one alternate for every delegate is elected
3. The precinct meetings are announced by the SDEC after it meets- usually sometime in April. This election year it is meeting April 14th
4. The dates of the precinct meetings will be published in the local newspaper.

Precinct Meeting | Precinct Meeting | Precinct Meeting | Precinct Meeting | Precinct Meeting | Precinct Meeting | Precinct Meeting

Dave ——

Is there any problem of how to finance the Washington conference? SNCC can very reasonably ask how much money CORE will invest, since we're interested in being part of the planning.

I think Mrs. Devine should be our FDP Washington liaison.

RA

FILE

March 29, 1965

Dear Friend

We are inviting you to a meeting, the purpose of which will be, for students from various parts of the country to meet together to discuss three things:

1) The Congressional Challenge of FDP
   a) the organizing of area conferences for students around the issue of their building support for the challenge in their communities.
   b) the coordination of a huge action project in Washington D.C. around the close of the challenge in which students would come to D.C. in order to engage in extensive lobbying.

2) Community Organizing

3) Campus Organizing

There is a need for students from across the country to talk to and learn from each other as they are becoming a more and more important part of the political destiny of the nation. We would like for you to come to Washington on the 15th and 16th of April, so that we can discuss together ways of providing forums around the country with a view to eventually involving more students in organizing in greater depth.

As students gather together, on the 15th and 16th, hopefully, in answer to the call of the first letter, we are asking you, who have had more experience in organizing to meet in a special planning session to discuss the activities listed above.

Please let us know if you are interested in being a part os such a meeting by calling Nancy Cooper or Judy Walborn at the Atlanta SNCC office, (404-688-0331) If you call collect, please make it "person to person" to Nancy or Judy. We are waiting anxiously to hear from you, so please call as soon as possible.

For Freedom,
Ralph Featherstone
Ralph Featherstone
Student Nonviolent
Coordinating Committee

M E M O R A N D U M

CONGRESS OF RACIAL EQUALITY
38 Park Row
New York, New York
April 8, 1965

The following MFDP memo is a little dated, but was reproduced for distribution because it contains much relevant information. G.S. — who?

MFDP MEMO ON LOBBYING

SECOND STATE OF CONGRESSIONAL CHALLENGE - JANUARY 17, 1965

WHAT DO WE ASK CONGRESSMEN TO DO

Very simply, UNSEAT THE MISSISSIPPI CONGRESSMEN. There is already massive evidence of Mississippi's blatant violation of the constitution by officially sanction disenfranchisement of her Negro citizens. Our lawyers are in Mississippi taking depositions regarding the wide spread terror and intimidation which supports the racist political structure of the state.

On the basis of the facts, already well known, we want adommiment from congressmen that when the issue reaches the Floor of the House they will vote against the seating of the illegally selected representatives from Mississippi.

WHEN WILL THE MATTER BE REPORTED TO THE HOUSE FOR A VOTE

The Committee on Elections can report back to the House anytime within the next six months--or if they so choose, never report back. You know the composition of the Committee; seven southern Democrats: Ashmore (SC), Chairman, Abbitt (VA.) Waggonner (La.), Perkins (Kentucky), Gibbons (Fla.), Davis (Ga.). There is obviously very little we can expect from this committee. We therefore should be prepared with commitments for unseating to meet all emergencies.

ORGANIZING FOR CONGRESSIONAL SUPPORT

There are many ways to line up support. All or some of the following suggestions might be valuable for your local community.

1. Letters to congressmen congratulating them, or rebuking (gertly) as the case may be, on their vote on the fairness resolution; and asking for future support.

2. Visits to congressmen at their home office, or a home delegation coming to see them in Washington.

3. Contact State Democratic and Republican Committees, State Legislatures, City Council, prominent individuals for resolutions of support which could be publicly announced.

MEMO ON LOBBYING (2)

4. Enlist other political, civic, church union organizations to pass resolutions of support and publicize action.

5. Mass petition drive and letter writing campaign.

6. Large public meetings in support of the challenge. FDP will supply speakers.

ANY MEANS WHICH WILL KEEP THE CHALLENGE IN THE PUBLIC EYE

QUESTIONS YOU SHOULD BE PREPARED TO ANSWER

Q. What is the basis of our challenge?

A. The elections held in Mississippi were in violation of the constitution and the laws of the U.S. and are therefore void. Mississippi has blatantly violated the 14th and 15th amendments by mass disenfranchisement of the Negro population through the use of government procedures and by terror intimidation and economic reprisals. Mississippi has also been in continual violation of a federal statute psssed in 1870 which stipulates that she would be admitted to representation in Congress on the condition that the then existing constitutional qualifications to vote would "never be amended or changed so as to deprive any citizen of the right to vote.

Evidence: Of the 500,000 Negroes in Mississippi who met age and residencey requirements, only 22,000 (about 5%) are registered to vote. While 500,000 or 67% of whites of voting age are registered.

Q. Why should a northern congressman vote for unseating?

A. There is ample evidence to prove the unconstitutional exclusion of Negroes from the right of the ballot. The racist political structure of Mississippi is well known. The lawlessness of this state is an American problem, one which every northern congressman knows. The moral issue being clean, the congressman should also be aware of the total political significance. As long as the southern Democrats are unchallenged and allowed to build up seniority rights, they will be a bottle neck to all progressive legislation. These men have provided roadblocks to legislation aimed at alleviating the entrenched problems of housing, employment, and education. They have been in opposition to all public housing, all foreign aid, all mass transit, all school aid, area redevelopment and public power facilities, the Peace Corps, the War on Poverty, Public libraries for rural areas, any change in immigration laws and for speeding up deportation and exclusion procedures, and of course all civil rights legislation. Northern congressmen can be reminded of their horror of the race riots and that only through the passage of legislation alleviating the problems of the northern ghettos can there be hope.

Q. If one supports the FDP challenged, doesn't that also mean recognizing our contestants rights to sit in Congress.

A. No, the first step must be voiding the elections and unseating the purported congressmen. The seating of our candidates would be an independent

judgement made by congress once the unseating takes place.

Q. What is the basis for seating the three MFDP candidates?

A. Our candidates did qualify for the regular elections by gathering petitions with 1,000 valid signatures of registered voters, which meets the requirements of Mississippi law. These petitions were capriciously rejected by the Secretary of State. It is our contention that a legal void was created and the elections run by the Freedom Democratic Party were the only free and Democratic elections held in Mississippi. On this question avoid getting into debate. If asked, present our viewpoint and that we feel a credible legal argument is made, and really the question is now one of political judgement. Also, we are now only asking congressmen to support the unseating of the Mississippi congressmen. - emphasis added - G.W.

Q. In order to be entitled to use statutory procedure don't you have to be a claimant in the election?

A. No, the statute reads: "Whenever any person intends to contest an election to the House of Representatives..." Also, Mrs. Hamer, Devine and Gray are valid contestants on the basis that their petition to be on the ballot were illegally denied.

Q. When the Fairness Resolution was defeated, didn't that end the challenge?

A. No, they are two separate acts. Through the statutory procedure, once we file our Notice of Challenge, it then automatically becomes business of the House Sub-committee on Elections of the House Administration Committee. The Fairness Resolution only aided us in focusing attention on the Challenge.

Q. Why don't we file our suit against Mississippi election through the courts?

A. Article I of the Constitution specifically says that the House of Representatives "shall be the Judge of the Elections, Returns and Qualifications of its own Members."

PLEASE KEEP THE WASHINGTON OFFICE INFORMED REGULARLY ON LOCAL CONGRESSIONAL ACTIVITIES.

Additional information may be obtained from the MFDP office in Washington. Maxine Skurka in the National Office of CORE can supply you with the voting position of your Congressmen on the January 4th attempt to unseat the Mississippi regulars. Send his name and state on a self-addressed postcard. G.W.

M E M O R A N D U M

April 7 1965

TO: ALL CORE Chapters

FROM: Dr George Wiley, Associate National Director

RE: Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party

In view of the dramatic developments in Alabama over the past several weeks, much of the national focus has shifted away from the crisis im Mississippi. But the crisis continues and in fact grows more acute every day In every Mississippi Congressional District, CORE and SNCC workers continue to risk their lives in voter registration drives, community center operations and a half dozen other on-going programs to seek and secure real personal and political freedom for Negroes in that state. The Alabama crisis actually serves to underscore the size and importance of the challenge throughout the deep south.

There is no single aspect of this drive more important than the program of the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party. By way of re-cap, let me briefly remind you of the Party's short history. After being refused the right to appear on the official state ballot last year, MFFP conducted its own "Freedom Registrations and Elections" and too its case to the Democratic National Convention in an attempt to unseat the "regular" Mississippi Delegation. Although the attempt failed, MFDP was able to dramatize its case to the nation to the acute embrrassment of the state of Mississippi and the South as a whole.

In January, MFDP made its next move by challenging the "regular" Mississippi Congressional Delegation under Title II, Section 201 of the United States Code. The statute provides for a clearly specified procedure to be followed to determine the validity of the challenge. It makes no provision for which delegation should be seated in the interim. At the opening of Congress on January 4th, Congressman Ryan (D-N.Y.) introduced a "fairness" resolution calling for the unseating of the "regular" Mississippi Congressmen until the MFDP challenge could be adjudicated. Though this resolution failed it won remarkable support with 51 members of the House voting to unseat the Mississippi regulars. The procedure under the challenge is still in motion. It is now a period for the taking of depositions and counter-depositions in Mississippi. The information gathered by both sides will be submitted to the House Committee on Elections and Privileges some time in late June or early July. Southern strength on this committee makes a favorable recommendation from the committee appear unlikely. MFDP is hopeful of bringing the whole matter back to the floor of Congress for final decision some time in July. The objective is to unseat the present Mississippi Congressional delegation, and secure new elections in Mississippi under federal supervision.

CORE has helped develop the MFDP from its inception. We supported the challenge at the Democratic National Convention by direct action and by lobbying. We must support the Congressional challenge even more vigorously. the MFDP and this challenge is by far the most significant political development that the civil rights movement has produced. The strength shown by the "fairness" reso-

lution has forced the power structure in the state of Mississippi to take the MFDP challenge seriously. A congressional victory on the challenge, which is not beyond the realm of possibility, would give tremendous impetus and encouragement to Negroes' voting drives all over the South. The successes to date have already encouraged the building of an indigenous political organization in Mississippi.

The civil rights movement has now recognized the need for the development of political power if we are to achieve the goals we seek. Success of the Mississippi challenge, coupled with a strong voting rights bill could be determining factors in bringing about rapid and dramatic changes in the South.

Three memoranda relating to these matters are enclosed. One is a copy of Farmer's testimony before the House Judiciary Committee. It sets forth the areas in which we think the Administration's voting rights bill needs strengthening. The second is an MFDP memorandum on lobbying. It includes specific suggestions on how to line up support for the MFDP challenge. Some of the same basic techniques, of course, would apply to the securing of support for strengthening amendments to the Administration's voting rights bill. The third is an invitation to the MFDP National Conference on April 24th. I hope your chapter can send representatives, not only because of the possibilities it affords for getting information on the voting rights bill and the MFDP challenge, but because it should be a significant focal point for discussion of national political organization for the civil rights movement.

Master

TDO:OFFICE STAFF
FROM: DAVE DENNIS
RE: WASHINGTON AND NEW YORK TRIP
DATE: $/ May 4, 1965

The FDP convention was attended by approximately 250- 300 people. Three-fourths were from Northern communities. 37 were members of the FDP who came up from Mississippi.

The morning session was composed of speeches by Mrs. Hamer, Mrs Devine, Mrs. Gray, and Congressman Brown from Calif. Most of these speeches were the typical type which explained the role of the FDP and demonstrated the emotions of the people from the state. Mrs. Hamer was extremely bitter and she indicated that the voting bill, the Selma demonstrations and the demonstrations in La. were all attempts to take the emphasis off of the challenge.

The afternnon session was composed of speeches from Foreman, Farmer, Spike, and Guyot. Farmer gave an extremely good speech which we should begin to take a serious look at. He spoke of the need of organizing FDP groups across the countryw He gave some relatively good pointa on how this could be done and the effect it would have on the country. His speech was by far the best and he was quite sincere about it.

The group broke into workshops at approximately 5:00. The workshops o covered --Northern community organization through ad hoc committees, summer project, etc. The convention adjoined at approximately 8:00. After the convention , Joyce Ware, Ronnie Moore, Oretha, Ernest, Wiley, and representatives from several Core groups met with members from t the FDP. The following points were discussed....,

1. How a better liason could be set up betweenCORE and FDP.
2. How CORE can better aid FDP.
3. FDP expansion into other areas.

On the first point we decided that CORE should put someone int tot

the FDP office which George decided to do. We ~~a~~- also dedided that there shoild be better communication between CORE and FDP which we both decide to attempt.

FDP felt that they needed pressure on the congressmen who voted in ~~t~~ their behalf in January and on those who are on the border line. CORE felt that it could help if FDP would inform them as to who these congressmen are and their present position on the challenge. FDP ag- ~~p~~greed to do this. The chapters could be very effective in this by mobilizing the people from their various communities to begin to presure their congressmen. Local issues could be tied to this very easily.

The question was raised as to where the FDP was placing its emphasis in organizing. The FDP felt that the emphasis should be placed on the middle and upper class communities because these are the people who have the greatest influence on the congressmen from their area. There was also an expressed feeling that there would not be enough time to organize the ghetto in order to effect the challenge.

Ther was a brief discussion about FDP emphasis in other states. The questions raised were....

A. How will these different groups relate to each other.

B. What direction theyahould take.

C. How are their activities to be co-ordinated.

It was decided everyone should give serious thought to these questions and deal with them at a later date.

The meeting was then a djourned.

OBSERVATIONS___ I personallly feel that ~~these~~- the convention was geared to the North rather than the South. It was more of an attempt to show that the FDP was a real group in need of real support rather than a convention to obtain direction or ~~the~~ TO formulate direction.

The convention was oriented toward reaching the middle and upper class people. There were very few grass roots people present. At the meeting between CORE and FDP the FDP group was dominated by a person named Mike ---n who co-ordinates the FDP activities oit of the FDP office in Washington.He answered all of the questions directed toward FDP.

The position about emphasis being placed on the middle and upper class was stated by him. It was very difficult to determine whether the people from Mississippi agreed with him or not. I feel that this point is very serious. Originallly we felt that the FDP could be used to stimulate grass roots political organization across the country. The challenge would be used as the catalyst for such organization. It is my opinion that this should remain as the goals of the FDP. Winning the challenge has become the sole goal of the FDP. My fear of thisis that if the FDP fails then they will not have anything to fall back on as a continuing foundation . I do not feel that the middle class nor the upper class will be there once the challenge is over and especially so if the challenge fails. If the challenge is successful I am afraid that it will become middle class oriented before long which will kill the sole purpose of the FDP. There is real need for old new ideas to get back into the FDP. I feel that the old people must become active again. There is also very little activity in Mississippi by FDP. Mrs. Devine feels strongly about this. There is real need for more concentration of organization by FDP in Miss.

DISCUSSION WITH CARL RACHLIN.

South Carolina--; There was discussion on the Watson election in S Carl promised to investigate the possibilities of filing some type of suit to stopmthe election. It was understood that the possibility of winning was not at all great. The other action would be taken to open the books on a daily basis.

Louisiana---- Collins, Douglas, and Elie are in charge of all legal actions in the state. All legal actions should come through them.

LCDC to set up legal actions in the state for the summer. They will set up an office in the state very soon. They will have attorneys in Miss., Ala., S.C., and Fla., and Southwest Georgia.

Talked about investigating the possibilities of suits to obtain addi tional registrars in Washington Parish and others, and the possibility of suits to stop municipal elections. He is considering school desegregation suits in Jonesboro, and Bogalusa. He is interested in the Olin Matheson suit.

Other suits---w

Jefferson Parish has a hospital bond on May 13th

East Baton Rouge has a school desegregation- bond for $5 million on June 1st.

Vermilion has a school bond on May 6th.

Public Improvement bond for LaSalle Parish on June 22nd.

Parish Jail bond in East Baton Rouge on May 26th.

There will be a meeting in New Orleans Thursday at the office of C,D, and E. Carl will be at that meeting along with Bronstein, and Schwartzchild.

There is to begin immediately an investigation in the possibilities of filing some type of suit against HUAC, or some type of action to stop the investigations.

GEORGE WILEY_____

This meeting was attended by Ronnie, Oretha, George Ed Day and I The discussion was centered around the support that CORE and SEDF could possibly give to the Southern project. This meeting lasted for approximately three and one-half days during which there were several conversations with SEDF. Thie following are the results of those meetings...

SEDF decided to give their funds through the Field Fellowship project. They did not want to give the funds directly to CORE because of fear of tax problems This plan would work in the following manner Each field fellowship worker would receive $500 at the beginning of the project $250 would be given to the project as his tuition (to pay for essentials for him to work which we would determine) and the remainder would be given to him as subsistance is given to task force workers 50m such students would would mean $12 500 to the project and $12,500 toward subsistance which would take care of the funds needed for workers during the summer project. This plan is not final for the SEDF board does not meet until June 3rd. At the presen t time they do not have the money for the proposed plan.

~~CORE-made-the-following-committment.....they-promised-to-gi~~ They promised to finance the entire South Carolina project which also includes two additional car immediately. There was no committment toward Northern Florida.

CORE made the following committment .. Two additional cars in Louisiana by May 10th plus $2,500 This money would be used to pay back bills plus to expand the projects One more car will be given during the first week of June and $2,500. +hey also promised a car for Florida during the first week of June They have made a deal with Castle Car Co that if they purchase

one car the second car would be given to them free.

In regard to volunteers it is estimated that $500 is needed for each student. This should be sent to the national office and the people are put on task force for the summer. this is the idealistic procedure but we feel that very few of the volunteers would agree to these terms For those who do agree to these terms it would more money for the budget

George would like for blocks of time to be prepared for Farmer in the South. This should be done immediately.

CORE could not make any further committments at that time.

The financial situation at the national office is very bad. The average income per day for CORE to survive on its own must be $2,000. While I was there they were averaging $200 per day.

The national office has increased its efforts in the field of recruitment which will help this department greatly.. SEDF mad a committment to pay for the posters and brochures. Thus far none of the material that we sent to them have been finished.

Southwide Bailbond Fund

Meeting with Ernest Channis and Bill Myers.

The fund was formerly known as the Mississippi Bail bond fund of which I am a board member. The members of the board of trustees are Bob Moses, James Foreman, Ben Smith, Bill Myers, Judge Hubeert Delany, Ernest Chanes am I.

The fund now has $12,000 available for bond. There should be approximately $100,000 by mid-July At presnt there is $1000 at Western Union in Atlanta which is under the direction of SNCC. for the Mississippi projects None of this money can be ysed for administrative purposes. Bill and Ernest takes care of administrative expenses I spoke to them about having the s same arrangements for the Louisiana project with the money administered through the Southern office. There was a tentative agreement to this. We decided that i would bring a recommendation back for the office staff to reconsider and present the results to them this week by letter.

I recommend that a $1000 float be set up in New Orleans at Western Union under the direction of Mr. Richard Haley for emergency bond purposes. The money would only be used for emergency purposes. We would determine these emergencies. For amounts exceeding $1000.00 we would consult Mr. Chanes and Mr. Myers on the procedures of acquiring the funds for such an emergency. It was decided that another board meeting should be called as soon as possible. the time and place was left up to Ben Smith and me.

National Council of Churches

I met with Bruce Hanson and Art Thomas. They committed themselves to the Ministerial training project which we recommended to them in February. They are sending down a minister by the name of Rev. Henry Stein who will be in charge of the project. He is a Negro. He will have approximately four ministers working with him. They attempt to take on two communities at a time. The communities have not been decided nor the date for beginning the project. Rev. Stein will be down this month. He is presently working in Alabama.

This project will be co-ordinated with our projects in Louisiana. The church groups will not work with any area unless thare is a CORE project already in existance or unless we request that they do so.

We spoke of expanding the activities of the NCC in Louisiana but because of difficulties in defining the roles of NCC ministers beyond a training position we decided to hold further discussion until a later date Until afeer this project is under way and we can probably make a much better judgement from the experiences shared together on the projects in the state. they felt that the NCC could not expand its activities beyond Louisiana.

"It is only when Congress unseats the Mississippians and conducts free and open elections will the forces opposed to Negroes voting understand that this Nation is serious about guaranteeing the rights of Negroes not only to register, but to participate in the political processes and to use their vote freely."

JOHN LEWIS

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

Friday, May 7, 1965

Ballots and Jobs

Economic Threats Seen Persisting as a Barrier To Negro Vote in Dixie

Rural Mississippi Mood Casts Doubt on New Bill's Impact; Registrants Face Dismissal

A Field Hand Fears Violence

By KENNETH G. SLOCUM
Staff Reporter of THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

CHARLESTON, Miss. – Americans expecting the voting law now taking shape in the Senate to revolutionize Dixie elections overnight would do well to heed the words of Roger Weston, a young Negro field hand in this northwest Mississippi community.

"Maybe I could register and nothing would happen," says Mr. Weston as he stands beside his one-room shack in a sun-baked cotton field. "Maybe my boss wouldn't fire me. Maybe no one would burn my house, throw me in the river or shoot through my door. Maybe. But I expect they would, so I haven't registered and don't intend to."

The impact of any new voting rules enacted into law by Congress depends in large part on the thinking of thousands of Southern Negroes like Mr. Weston. And thus the clear import of his views, which appear to be shared by sizable numbers of Negroes in the Deep South, is that a new voting rights measure won't result in a sudden rush of Negro citizens to the polls in many Dixie communities. This is likely to be especially true in predominantly rural sections, where more than half of all Southern Negroes live.

Barrier Lowered

Tallahatchie County, which surrounds this town of Charleston, is a particularly good spot for gauging Negro attitudes toward voting. Thanks to Federal court injunctions, there now exist no legal or procedural barriers to Negro registration in Tallahatchie County. Nor, according to local Negroes, are there overt attempts to intimidate Negroes at the registrar's office.

"No voting law the Senate could draw up would be more stringent than the injunction under which this county is operating now," claims George Payne Cossar, a local attorney and a member of the Mississippi House of Representatives. "The door to Negro registration is wide open."

All the same, only about five Negroes per week are seeking to register, according to both civil rights leaders and local white leaders. Since residents must usually display two poll-tax receipts to vote in other than Federal elections, many of the Negroes now registering will not be eligible to vote in local contests until 1967.

An Unspoken Threat

Like most Tallahatchie Negroes, Gene Reed, a young farm day worker, has not been threatened by his employer. But he is fearful, nonetheless. "I'm not sure Mrs. Trout would fire me for registering, but I suspect she would," he reflects. "At any rate, I'm certainly not going to register unless she encourages me to."

Mrs. G. C. Trout, who with her husband owns 830 acres of cotton fields, clearly doesn't plan to give any such encouragement. "I don't think that just to be 21, alive and a citizen gives people the right to vote," she says. "I don't think these people have yet demonstrated the intelligence and responsibility required of a voter."

"Open Season"

Under Mississippi law, names of applicants for registration are published in the local paper, assuring employers' knowledge of registration activities by workers. "In theory, this is to expose all applicants to challenge, say on moral character grounds," says one Federal attorney. "In practice, it means it's open season on any Negro who signs up, through economic retaliation or physical reprisal."

Observes A. D. Beittel, a white man who is director of the Mississippi program of the American Friends Service Committee, a Quaker group seeking better employment opportunities for Negroes: "Economic intimidation is far more powerful and common in the race issue than is violence. Violence is the one you read about occasionally, but economic intimidation is the thing these people live with every day."

The economic dependency of Southern Negroes on whites is great. Some 95% to 98% of working Negroes in Tallahatchie County are employed by white people, estimates Ned Rice, president of the Tallahatchie County Bank. "I'm hard put to think of more than a handful that don't work for white people," he comments.

But few long-time residents doubt that economic retaliation would be swift and widespread if Negro registration picked up significantly. "There are plenty of folks around here who will fire their Negroes for registering," declares Rice Pritchard, who for 30 years has run a cotton gin and a lumber yard employing some 25 Negroes. He says he wouldn't do so himself and then adds: "My people aren't registered—I don't fool with any of those smart niggers. But if any of them did, I'd sure call them in and ask them what they mean."

The possibility of swift action by the Federal court obviously holds some employers in check. "I wouldn't take action against a Negro who registered, but if it wasn't for the court injunction, it might be a different story," declares Jack De Mange, president of A. P. De Mange Lumber Co., which employs some 30 Negroes. "I can't say I approve of them voting."

Relatively Low Wages

Despite the immensity of the economic threat to Negro registrants, the fear of physical reprisal looms even greater for some. "I'd probably lose my job, but that's not the main reason I don't register," says Frederick Thurmond, Jr., a Negro truck driver. "I have a family, a wife and kids and mother and father. If I try to register, white folks around here are liable to do something to them."

The fear of white reprisal is by no means limited to day workers. "Frankly, we're just plain scared to try," confesses the Rev. Jacob Courage Batteast, a Negro Baptist minister, when asked about registration. David Alford, Negro principal of the local Negro high school, throws up his hands when asked why teachers don't register. "I won't discuss it," he says. "I don't want to get involved."

McCORMACK WORKS TO SAVE MISSISSIPPI CONGRESSMEN

The Washington Merry-Go-Round THE WASHINGTON POST *Thursday, May 20, 1965*

By Drew Pearson

McCormack's Deal

It will probably be denied, but gaunt, gray Speaker John McCormack of Massachusetts has made a secret deal with Mississippi Congressmen to help them remain in Congress. Without his help they would probably be ousted.

McCormack's secret promise to the Mississippians is one of the strange paradoxes of Congress. Publicly McCormack is for an amendment to the voting right bill banning poll taxes. Furthermore he comes from a city whose uncompromising abolitionists damned and blasted the South in such a way as to help precipitate the Civil War.

Yet, privately, the Congressman from Boston has been working hand in glove with the Mississippi segregationists and has promised to save them from losing their seats.

John will probably smite his bosom and issue an indignant denial calling Drew Pearson a liar after this is published. Nevertheless, here are his very imprtant backstage moves.

Backstage Move No. 1 dates back to last January when the issue of seating the Mississippi Congressmen first arose.

The Constitution clearly states that if states' inhabitants over 21 are prohibited from voting "the basis of representation therein shall be reduced in the proportion" to the number prevented from voting. It was quite clear that last November most of Mississippi's Negroes were prevented from voting. Furthermore, the Law of 1870, by which Mississippi was readmitted to the Union after the Civil War, requires that every citizen be given the right to vote.

When a group of Northern Congressmen moved to prevent the Mississippi Congressmen from taking their seats as Congress convened Jan. 2, Speaker McCormack led the move to seat them.

"The Speaker has asked me to introduce a motion to seat the Mississippi delegation," Rep. Carl Albert (D-Okla.), told Rep. William Fitz Ryan (D-N.Y.) "and as Majority Leader I am going to do it."

Backstage Move No. 2 came after the Democratic caucus stripped Rep. John Bell Williams (Miss.) and Rep. Albert Watson (S.C.) of their seniority as Democrats because they had voted for Goldwater. Despite this official vote by the Democratic Party, McCormack, a leading Democrat, gave Williams full seniority in assigning office space. As a result, the Congressman from Mississippi got one of the choicest offices in the de luxe Sam Rayburn Building.

Backstage Move No. 3 is McCormack's recent secret promise to help prevent the unseating of the Mississippi Congressman.

This came about after hundreds of affidavits were collected in Mississippi attesting under oath that Negroes were disfranchised last year. Though this was known in the past, no one ever took the trouble to produce sworn affidavits proving the disfranchisement. Furthermore, Congress for the first time since New Deal days is dominated by Northern liberals.

In addition, some Southerners, such as the respected Phil Landrum, (D-Ga.), once the darling of the conservatives, are moving over to the liberal side. Finally, the Democratic Study Group has developed an effective, vote-rallying whip system which has surprised and often overwhelmed the conservatives.

As a result, Speaker McCormack has told Mississippi Congressmen that they would lose a showdown vote to keep their seats. Their only hope, he has advised, is to sidetrack the move to unseat them. And he has promised to use his own tremendous power to do so.

Ironically, it was the Democratic Study Group which helped give McCormack this new power he now plans to use against them.

"The unseating of the Mississippi congressmen will be the test of the moral integrity of the Congress of the United States."

DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING

"I ask of this Congress fast remedial action and the rejection of the regular Mississippi congressional pretenders who have been elected on a platform of blood and disenfranchisement."

JAMES FARMER

WRITE YOUR CONGRESSMAN TODAY FOR HIS VOTE TO UNSEAT THE MISSISSIPPIANS AND FOR FREE AND OPEN ELECTIONS.

Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party
926 Pennsylvania Avenue, S.E.
Washington, D. C.
546-4450

MISSISSIPPI FREEDOM DEMOCRATIC PARTY
926 Pennsylvania Ave., S.E.
Washington, D.C.
546-4450

TO: ALL MEDIA, FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SUBJECT: STATEMENT BY LAWRENCE GUYOT, CHAIRMAN EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

WASHINGTON, D.C., May 17, 1965

Today the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party is submitting to the Clerk of the House of Representatives more than 600 depositions of evidence taken in Mississippi conclusively proving that the five Congressmen from that state were elected by processes violating the Constitution of the United States and the political rights of over 400,000 Negroes in Mississippi. These depositions of evidence were collected by lawyers acting in behalf of the MFDP in support of the challenges we have instituted to the seating of the congressmen from that State under Title 2, Section 201-26 of the United States Code.

OFFICIAL PARTICIPATION OF STATE AUTHORITIES IN NEGRO DISENFRANCHISEMENT.

This testimony is not only the statements of hundreds of Negroes in the State describing shootings, private acts of intimidation such as bombings, beatings, evictions, and dismissals from jobs which they suffered for attempting to register. It also includes conclusive evidence of officially perpetrated and inspired harassment, the admission of state officials of their own participation in organized racism, and illustrates the close ties and over-lapping interests between such organizations as the White Citizens' Councils and the State Administration in depriving Negroes of the right to vote.

Mr. Earl Johnson, Jr., Director of the tax-supported Mississippi Sovereignty Commission admitted under oath that as of January 1st of this year $193,000 drawn from public funds had been given by that agency to the White Citizens' Council. Richard Morphew, Public Relations Director for the Citizens' Councils admitted to having received the money and testified that, "The first major accomplishment and the first project undertaken by the Councils on a state level was the passage of the (Mississippi) constitutional amendment to raise voter qualifications in Mississippi." Mr. Morphew testified that "it was not umcommon for a great many people in public life in Mississippi to be proud of their member ship in the Council," and that Congressmen Whitten, Colmer and Williams "participated in Citizens' Council Forums," and that to the best of his recollection Governor Johnson is a member.

Over 400 depositions of local Negroes and voter registration workers document the patterns of intimidation and terror suffered by Negroes seeking to vote. Mrs. Aylene Quinn of Macomb testified that her house was bombed after she sheltered voter registration workers and attempted to register. The bombers were released with suspended sentences. George Johnson a law student working on voter registratinn in Greenwood

more

testified that police officers threatened him with castration while he was in custody at the jail.

In making these depositions, amounting to over 15,000 pages of evidence the Negro people of Mississippi have again come forward to risk reprisals of violence and terror. However, these depositions, formally signed and witnessed are an incontrovertable body of evidence proving that the general elections of November 1964 in Mississippi were unconstitutional. They prove that the conditions described by President Johnson on March 15th, "The harsh fact is that in many places in this country men and women are kept from voting simply because they are Negroes. Every device of which human ingenuity is capable has been used to deny that right.", applies very specifically to Mississippi.

RESPONSIBILITY PLACED WITH HOUSE.

The submission of this evidence and the filing of a final legal brief completes the legal aspects of the challenges. We have made enough evidence available to the Congress to convince any reasonable and unbiased panel. We now call upon the Clerk of the House, the Sub-Committee on Elections of the Committee on House Administration and the members of Congress to act swiftly to ensure that the House of Representatives has a full opportunity to examine the evidence and charges brought in these challenges at any early date.

There are, for example, a number of depositions which are being inexplicably held up by white notary publics and hearing officers in Mississippi. In these cases we are submitting duplicates of all statements which are still unsigned by the Mississippi officials with receipts showing that the hearing officer is in possession of the orginals, which have not been sent back as the Statute provides. We urge the Clerk to proceed with all subsequent steps of the challenge.

CHALLENGE ENTERS NEW PHASE -- NATIONAL ACTION PROGRAM BEGINS

After today the progress of this challenge will be at the pace imposed by the internal machiner of the House. The Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party is presently engaged in taking the issue to the Nation. With the support and assistance of major organizations within the civil rights movement -- The Southern Christian Leadership Conference, The Congress of Racial Equality, The Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee and others we are currently engaged in discussion to formulate a program of action in the North and the South. Mr. James Farmer of CORE and Mr. John Lewis of SNCC are present to disuuss this further.

On April 24th a conference was held in Washington to begin the national effort in the north. In addition to the civil rights organizations there were representation from 40 civic, religious and labor organizations from 30 states. Action is now being taken to bring to Washington delegations from these states to bring the issue of the challenge to congressmen from the various areas. This effort will culminate in a national convocation in Washington during July.

STUDENT NONVIOLENT COORDINATING COMMITTEE
360 Nelson Street, S.W., Atlanta, Georgia

STATEMENT BY JOHN LEWIS, CHAIRMAN
Washington, D.C., May 17, 1965

The issues raised by the MFDP Challenge to the congressional delegation from Mississippi go to the heart of Negro exclusion from the political processes in Mississippi and the South.

The question of the Challenge goes beyond the process of registration. It goes to the issue of actual participation in elections and the political processes. It is entirely possible that the mere fact of being registered--thereby qualified--to vote will not enable Negroes in Mississippi to actually vote since economic intimidation and violence will still be available to those who are opposed to Negroes voting.

The challenges are based specifically on the lack of Negro participation in the elections of November, 1964. The evidence covered by the depositions cover not only obstruction to registration but the acts of economic harassment and violence that are also used as a matter of policy by the State. It is only when Congress unseats the Mississippians and calls for and conducts free and open elections in Mississippi for these seats that the Negroes in that State will be free to participate. It is only when the Congress takes these actions that the political forces in the South that are opposed to Negroes voting will understand that Congress and the Nation are serious about guaranteeing the rights of Negroes to fully participate in the process of government. Recognizing this SNCC stands ready to commit the major portion of its organizational resources and energies to the support of this Challenge during the next two months.

We plan to use our organizing staff in Mississippi to support the voter registration drives, mass rallies and political demonstrations called for by the local community leaders of the MFDP. Our offices and support organizations in the north are working with other organizations to publicize the Challenge and garner congressional support in their local communities. We are at present recruiting 2,000 students and young people to lobby in Washington for the challenge. These young people engaged in the Washington Lobby will disperse, some to Mississippi and others to their home communities to work on the Challenge. These activities will be in support of unseating the Mississippians and calling for free elections in Mississippi.

SNCC stands ready to support with all its organizational resources, both north and south, any call that comes from the MFDP and its allies for a national mobilization of people in Washington.

[1965, May 17]

Congress of Racial Equality
38 Park Row
New York, NY
Attn: Val Coleman, CO 7 6270

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Statement by James Farmer, National Director, CORE

CORE unequivocally supports the historic challenge of the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party and calls for a great coalition of civil rights, political and civic organizations and individuals to join this struggle. CORE pledges its fullest support of MFDP on this 11th Anniversary of the Supreme Court decision outlawing segregation in the public schools.

The chronicle of brutality to be presented today in these petitions has no equal in the parlimentary history of our nation. These are real voices of the real Americans who have been blooded and even murdered in their efforts to exercise the right to vote.

As we take these depositions to the Congress, I ask of the Congress fast remedial action and the rejection of the regular Mississippi Congressional pretenders who have been elected on a platform of blood and disenfranchisement.

CORE is prepared to take whatever steps may be necessary to support this challenge. Discussions are underway as to a schedule of massive demonstrations if the Congress fails to act and act quickly. These demonstrations will be in large part directed at Congressmen across the nation who have opposed this challenge. For example, on June 20, a major demonstration is planned for Brooklyn, New York calling attention to Congressman Emmanuel Cellar and the Brooklyn Congressional delegations vote against the Fairness Resolution on January 4, 1965.

As to the voting rights bill before Congress at this moment, these depositions bear tragic witness to the need for this bill -- and more specifically to the need for a bill with real legislative and judicial teeth.

May 17, 1965

SOUTHERN CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE
334 Auburn Avenue, N.E., Atlanta, Georgia

STATEMENT BY DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING
MAY 17, 1965, Washington, D. C.

Today, on the 11th Anniversary of the historic Supreme Court decision outlawing segregation in the Public Schools, the MFDP has filed with the Clerk of the House of Representatives the more then 600 depositions taken in support of the Challenges to the seating of the entire congressional delegation from Mississippi. This indeed is a momentous and historical moment. I wholeheartedly support as I have from the beginning, these Challenges.

The unseating of the Mississippi congressmen will be the test of the moral integrity of the Congress of the United States. The weakening of the voting bill by the Senate's shameful action in stripping away the anti-poll tax provision makes it absolutely imperative that the House of Representatives does not waiver in its obligation to unseat the congressmen. The unseating will make any voting bill meaningful.

I,therefore, again pledge myself and the SCLC to the fullest support of the Challenges of the MFDP and call upon all Americans to join with me in this commitment.

MISSISSIPPI FREEDOM DEMOCRATIC PARTY

P. O. BOX 1329
JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI - 39203
Telephone: (601) 352 - 9788

Washington Office:
1353 'U' STREET, N. W.
WASHINGTON, D. C. - 20009
Telephone: (202) 332 - 7732

May 24, 1965

Dear Friend:

Last Monday the MFDP held a press conference in Washington, which we know at least was covered by the major Washington and New York papers and all national radio and TV networks, to announce the submission of our 600 depositions to the Clerk of the House of Representatives. Joining with us were James Farmer, John Lewis and Dr. Martin Luther King (who, though not present, sent a statement) announcing their plans to launch all-out efforts to unseat the Mississippians.

To refresh your memory on procedure, the Clerk of the House is now to call a conference with both sides for the purpose of determining what material from the depositions should be printed. This conference is set for Wednesday, June 2. Our briefs will be submitted on June 1, which means that thirty days after that the Mississippians must submit theirs.

It appears that the Mississippi congressmen are going to begin using all kinds of delaying tactics to see that the challenges are held over until the next session, when they can try to argue that elections are less than a year away.. Ex-Governor Coleman, who is representing the Congressmen, has tried to have the meeting on printing of depositions put off for a month. We are moving now to see that constant pressure is kept on the House and the Sub-Committee on Elections warning them that the civil rights movement will not tolerate such delay.

Indications from the House are that there is strong interest and growing support for the Challenge, but during the deposition stage there was little for Congressmen to do. Now, with the evidence in and open to inspection by any congressman, every representative should be revisited.

Also, the Congress is on its way to completing action on the Voter Registration Bill. We have worked, with other civil rights organizations, for as strong a Bill as possible, but, as the article by Ken Slocum in the Wall Street Journal points out, no matter how stringent, this Bill cannot overcome the violence and intimidation that the racists will use to prevent Negroes from participating fully in the political processes which govern their lives. The unseating of the Mississippi congressmen will be a clear warning to all those who wish to prevent Negroes from voting, not only in Mississippi but throughout the South, that no election will be considered valid until all citizens are granted access to the ballot and free use of the vote. Now that Congress has taken the first step, opening the registration rolls, it should be prepared to make this a meaningful act by unseating the Mississippi congressmen.

We need, at this point, to estimate our strength in Congress so that we will know where extra pressure and work are needed. Letters should be written immediately and delegations sent to visit congressmen asking for their commitment to vote to unseat the Mississippi delegation and urging that they exert every effort to see that this matter is not bottled up in Committee. Please contact our Washington office after you have polled your local congressmen on their positions.

The second way we can ensure this matter being reported out of the Committee during this summer is by making this a national issue. The civil rights organizations, including SCLC, SNCC, and CORE are prepared to join in mass activities in support of the Challenge, and are working with all other local and national organizations to this end. We are working on a broadly based organizational coalition to ensure the success of the Challenge.

Yours for Freedom,

Lawrence Guyot

Lawrence Guyot
Chairman

P.S. Please note new address: 926 Pennsylvania Avenue S.E.
Washington, D.C.
Telephone: 546-4450

Records Mississippi
Light Stations

1904, Feb -
September

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MISSISSIPPI LEGISLATURE REGULAR SESSION 1964
By: Mr. Turner To: Municipalities

HOUSE BILL NO. 64

AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 132, CHAPTER 491, LAWS OF 1950, APPEARING AS SECTION 3374-132, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1942, RECOMPILED, TO PROVIDE THAT MUNICIPALITIES MAY EN FORCE NEEDFUL POLICE REGULATIONS TO RESTRAIN MOVEMENTS OF INDIVIDUALS UNDER CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI:

SECTION 1. Section 3374-132, Mississippi Code of 1942, Recompiled, is hereby amended as follows:

3374-132. Quarantine

The governing authorities of municipalities shall have the power to make regulations to prevent the introduction and spread of contagious or infectious diseases; to make quarantine laws for that p urpose, and to enforce the same within five (5) miles of the corporate limits; and to establish pest houses outside corporate limits, and to provide for the support and government of the same.

SECTION 2. The governing authorities of municipalities shall have the further power to make additional regulations to protect property, health and lives and to enhance the general welfare of the community by restricting the movements of the citizens, or any group thereof, of such municipalities when there is eminent danger to the public safety because of the freedom of movement thereof.

SECTION 3. If any paragraph, sentence or clause of this act shall be held unconstitutional or invalid, the same shall not affect any other part, portion or provision of this act, but such other part shall remain in full force and effect.

SECTION 4. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its passage.

COFO COPY FEB. 1964 CORO COPY

MISSISSIPPI LEGISLATURE REGULAR SESSION 1964
BY: SENATOR CARAWAY TO: MUNICIPALTTIES

SENATE BILL NO. 1526

AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 3470, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1942, AS AMENDED, TO PROVIDE THAT MUNICIPALITIES MAY ENTER INTO AGREEMENTS WITH ONE ANOTHER AND ASSIGN PERSONNEL, EQUIPMENT, SUPPLIES AND MATERIALS FOR THE PURPOSES OF COMBATTING FIRES, NATURAL AND ENEMY DISASTERS, AND PREVENTION AND ALLEVIATION OF RIOTS AND ~~RIOT~~ CIVIL DISTURBANCES; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI:

SECTION 1. Section 3470, Mississippi Code of 1942, as amended by Chap ter 510, Laws of 1958, is am ended to read as follows:

3470. FIRE DEPARTMENTS AUTHORIZED TO GO OUTSIDE CITY LIMITS.

That the fired departments, including the apparatus and all vehicles of such departments, be and are hereby authorized to use the roads, highways, streets and alleys outside the corporate limits of such municipalities owning and operating such fire fighting and fire prevention equipment, for the purpose of aiding in the extinguishing and prevention of fires or damages or injuries caused by tornadoes or other casualities in locations outside the corporate limits of such municipalities or in other villages, towns or cities within the State of Mississippi.

That for the purpose of expediting the extinguishment of prevention offires and in aiding in the rescue ofpersons or preventing other damage to either persons or property in such locationsoutside the corporate limits of such municipalities or in villages, towns or cities located and situated beyond the corporate limits of such municipalities owning such equipemnt, they be and are hereby extended the right of way, or priority over the public roads, highways, streets and alleys of the state and counties whether such highways, roads, streets or alleys are maintained by the state highway department, counties or villages, towns or cities.

That to further effectuate and put into force and effect the purposes of this act, such municipalities owning said equipment shall be and are hereby declared free of any liability on account of injury to persons or property damage in going to and from such locations outside thecorporate limits of such municipalities owning andoperating such equipment, or in other villages, towns or cities or while engaged in extinguishing or preventing fires or in alleviating the damage caused by tornadoes or wind storms or other casualties. It is the purpose of this act that such municipalities aiding other municipalities or the residents of the State of Mississippi located outside the corporate limits of such municipalities owning such equipment, in the extinguishing of prevention of fires or in the alleviation of damage caused by tornadoes or wind storms or other casualties shall be entitled to all the benefits andimmunities, both from civil and crimihal prosecution, as now enjoyed by such municipalities within their own respective corporate limits.

The governing authorities of municipalities may enter into mutual assistance pacts or agreements with othermunicipalities in the assignment of personnel, equipment, supplies and material for the purposes

of combatting fires, natural and enemy disasters, and the prevention and alleviation of riots or civil disturbances of the peace and tranquility within such municipalities. This act shall be liberally construed to effect the purposes thereof.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its passage.

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IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF MISSISSIPPI
JACKSON DIVISION

FILED MARCH 5, 1964

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

Plaintiff,

v.

L.F. CAMPBELL, CIRCUIT COURT CLERK AND REGISTRAR, MADISON COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI; and STATE OF MISSISSIPPI,

Defendants.

CIVIL ACTION NO. 3530 (J)(C)

C O M P L A I N T

The United States of America, plaintiff, alleges that:

1. This action is instituted by the Attorney General in the name of the United States, pursuant to the provisions of 42 U.S.C. 1971 as amended by Part IV of the Civil Rights Act of 1957 (71 Stat. 637) and Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1960 (74 Stat. 90).

2. This Court has jurisdiction of this action under 42 U.S.C. 1971 (d) and 28 U.S.C. 1345.

3. The State of Mississippi is joined as a party defendant pursuant to Section 601(b) of the Civil Rights Act of 1960.

4. L. F. Campbell is the Circuit Court Clerk and Registrar of Madison County, Mississippi, and an agent of the defendant state. He resides in Madison County, Mississippi.

5. Under Mississippi law registration is a prerequisite to voting in any election.

6. Defendant L. F. Campbell, as Circuit Court Clerk and Registrar of Madison County, and his agents, receive and pass upon applications for registration to vote and determine whether or not each applicant is qualified to register to vote.

7. There are approximately 10,366 Negroes and 5,622 white persons of voting age in Madison County. About 152 Negroes and ~~registered~~ in excess of 5,000 white persons of voting age are registered to vote in this County.

8. The defendants, in conducting registration for voting ~~have~~ ~~engaged~~ in Madison County, have engaged in racially discriminatory acts and practices which include, but are not limited to, the following:

(a) Applying different and more stringent stnadards to Negro applicants than to white applicants in determining whether such applicants are qualified to register to vote.

(b) Rejecting the applications of qualified Negroes.

(c) Failing and refusing to afford to Negro applicants the same or equal opportunity to register to vote as is afforded to white applicants.

(d) Unreasonably delaying the receipt and processing of applications for registration from Negroes.

(e) Arbitrarily denying Negroes the opportunity to register to vote.

(f) Discouraging Negroes from attempting to register to vote.

9. The acts and practices of the defendants as described in paragraph 8 of this Complaint have deprived Negro citizens in Madison County, Mississippi, of the right to register and to vote without distinction of race or color.

10. The deprivations referred to in the preceding paragraph of this Complaint have been and are pursuant to a pattern and practice.

11. The defendants will, unless restrained by order of this Court, continue to engage in the racially discriminatory acts and practices described in this Complaint.

WHEREFORE, plaintiff prays:

1. That this Court make a finding that the acts and practices of the defendants as described in this Complaint were and are racially discriminatory and constitute deprivations of the rights secured by 42 U.S.C. 1971(a), and that such deprivations were and are pursuant to a pattern and practice.

2. That this Court issue a preliminary and permanent injunction enjoining the defendants, their agents, employees and successors, and all persons acting in concert with them from:

(a) Engaging in any act which would deprive any citizen in Madison County of the right to register and the right to vote without distinction of race or color.

(b) Engaging in any acts which would delay, prevent, hinder, or discourage Negro citizens, on account of their race or color, from applying for, and becoming registered voters.

(c) Applying different or more stringent standards to Negro applicants for registration than those applied to white applicants for registration in determining whether such applicants are qualified to register to vote in Madison County.

(d) Failing and refusing to register any Negro citizen in Madison County who at the time of his application for registration possesses the same or similar qualifications as the least qualified white persons who have been deemed qualified and have been registered.

3. That this Court issue such additional orders as will insure the fair, equal and non-discriminatory administration of registration procedures in Madison County, Mississippi.

4. That this Court grant such additional relief as justice may require together with the costs and disbursements of this action.

s/ _____
ROBERT F. KENNEDY
Attorney General of the United States

s/ _____
BURKE MARSHALL
Assistant Attorney General

s/ _____
ROBERT E. HAUBERG
United States Attorney

s/ _____
JOHN DOAR
Attorney, Department of Justice

STATE OF MISSISSIPPI

COUHNTY OF HINDS

CHARLIE ROBINSON, being duly sworn, says:

My name is Charlie Robinson. I was born on August 20, 1920 in Pelahatchie, Mississippi, in Rankin County. I am a Negro. I live with my wife and two young sons at 311 2d Firebaugh, Canton, Mississippi. I finished high school ø in Canton, Mississippi. I was in the United States Navy from September, 1944, until June, 1946. I came out as Steward First Class. I received an honorable discharge. I was then in the Naval Reserve. I was called into the Navy again from December 1950 until April 1952. My discharge was again honorable. I now spray paint in a furniture factory for a living. My employer is the Storkline Corporation. I pay some property tax each year, perhaps $25.00 or $30.00. Since 1955 I have paid poll tax fairly regularly but missed a year or two. I have never been arrested.

I first registered to vote in about 1949. The Registrar was Mr. Round. I believe that was his name. He registered me. I tried to vote one time but they told me my name was not on the book.

On Friday, February 28, I was working in Jackson, but I knew my wife was going up to register on Freedom Day and I approved of that. I want to vote, too, because I want a voice in what is going on. For that reason I decided to go ~~to~~ on February 29, 1964.

I left home at 9:30 for Mount Pleasant Church. My wife and my adopted son, Paul, came with me. I left my family and picked up Mrs. Ida Barnes, a Negro, to take her to the courthouse. She can read and write. I took her to the courthouse. She went inside and I returned to the church. At about 9:50 a group of us - about 12 - went in cars to the courthouse. We parked on the west side of the courthouse square at 10:00 o'clock. There were approximately 25 Negroes standing in line on the west side of the courthouse. There were about six policemen, the Sheriff, and about six deputies standing around. Mrs. Martha James, Center Street, a Negro, was in charge of the line. The Sheriff asked my name, address, and my business. I told him I wanted to re-register. He told me that you ~~can only register on~~ only had to register once; that was sufficient. He told me to get on across the street. They did not give me time to tell them my name had not been on the book when I had tried to vote. I went across the street as I was told.

I then sat in the car till about 11:45. I only saw one Negro go in to fill out a form. I believe the office closed at noon with people still waiting.

s/ _____
CHARLIE ROBINSON

Sworn to and subscribed before me
this 3rd day of March, 1964.

LORYCE E. WHARTON, CLERK, UNITED STATES
DISTRICT COURT, SOUTHERN DISTRICT
OF MISSISSIPPI

By s/ _____

STATE OF MISSISSIPPI

COUNTY OF Madison

MRS. LESSIE McCLENDON LUCKETT, being duly sworn states that:

My name is Mrs. Lessie McClendon Luckett. I was born in Madison,County, Mississippi, on August 4, 1927. I am a Negro. I am divorced. I live at 401 Cauthen Street with my mother. I operate a beauty shop in Canton. I finished high school in Canton. I have never been arrested.

I have never been a registered voter. I never tried before Friday, February 28, 1964, because I had heard of some Negroes who had been turned away and not permitted to register. This discouraged me from trying. After everyone said Friday would be Freedom Day I wanted to try too. I thought the whole thing was a good idea.

I went to the Courthouse with my sister, Mrs. Geneva Watts. I got to the courthouse at about 9:30. A group of Negroes who were to try to register had just started to come in to the gate and I went in the gate with them. Charley Scott and Wilbert Robinson and Mrs. Marian Robinson and ~~on~~ some others, ~~I~~ I don't know who, ~~they~~ were there. I think I was the thirteenth in line. When we got to the gate, Deputy Billy Nobles asked people's names, ages, addresses, and why ~~there~~ they were there. I told him I was there to register and I gave him the information he asked for. I stood outside the courthouse. I remained there until 20 minutes to three. They took people in one at a time. The third one was in when I left. There were so many still ahead of me, that I thought staying would do no good. I would say there were a hundred or more in my line and there were more lines besides that on the other side of the courthouse. I heard about their takine one old man to jail but I did not see it.

I observed a lot of policemen and ~~dep~~ deputies there all day. They asked people what they were there for and kept people from going into the courthouse until it was their turn. I saw some of the ministers standing across the street watching. They were not allowed to stand on the courthouse yard. I did not see any reason why they could not take more than one at a time. Nobody made any distrubances.

s/ LESSIE M. LUCKETT

Notarized

STATE OF MISSISSIPPI

COUNTY OF Madison

MRS. MARION ROBINSON, being duly sworn states that:

My name is Mrs. Marion Robinson. I am a Negro. I am 36 years old. I am married to Mr. Charlie Robinson and live with him and my two adopted sons at 311 Second Avenue, Canton, Miss. My husband works for Storkline ~~Corp~~ Corporation in Jackson. I am a housewife. I was born in New Orlenas, La. on Jan. 6, 1928 and I have lived in Canton 12 years. I finished high school in New Orleans. I can read and write well. I have been a substitute/teacher in the Madison County schools. I have never been music arrested. During the past few weeks, I have been helping the COFO people with voter registration - house to house canvassing. I have been helping with voter registration because I wanted people to come to mass meetings so they could learn to fill out the forms and register.

I never tried to register before February 28, 1964, because I had heard of Negro people being turned away and I thought the same might happen to me. But on February 28 we started a large registration drive to register every Negro who wants to register. I want to take part ih citizenship activities and to vote and help my people obtain the right to vote.

I went to the Freedom House on Lutz Avenue at about 9:30 on Friday morning with three white ministers and Rev. Elton Cox and Miss Carol Merritt. We had a meeting and after the meeting we went over to the Pleasant Green Church of Christ Holiness U.S.A. There were about 250 people, mostly Negroes, there when we arrived. Inside they were having a meeting with instructions. Rev. Cox gave us instructions. He told us to march in single file on the right hand side of the street. Mr. Charles Evers collected all weapons. He made me open my purse to see if there were any weapons or a nail file in it. We left in three cars - fifteen of us - for the courthouse.

When we arrived, we were met by Sheriff Cauthen and Billy Nobles and Mr. Cooks, a City policeman and other law enforcement officers. When we got to the gate, the Sheriff asked George Raymond to state his business. He said he brought these people up to register. They told George he had to leave the courthouse lawn, so George turned us over to Wilbert Robinson. After they left us inside the gates, we were told to form a single line to the right of the sidewalk.* It was about 10 o'clock when I arrived there.

When we walked up to the steps, we were met by some more officers and Billy Nobles who stood on the steps blocking us. Nobles told Wilbert Robinson to state his business and Wilbert said he had brought us ~~up~~ in to register. Nobles then turned to me and asked me to state my business. I told him I came to register. Nobles then asked me my name, and told Wilbert he would have to leave, and another deputy told us to stand back and not to block the sidewalk. He was speaking quite roughly, as was Mr. Nobles. After we stayed in line, he took Mr. Owens in. This was about 10:30. I saw him (Mr. Owens) stand in the corridor about half an hour before he got into the Circuit Clerk's

* I was second in line. Mr. Mack Ownes was first in line.

office.

At about 11:45, one of the deputies told me I could go into the courthouse. I went into the corridor and was told to stay there. I kept asking a deputy there what time it was and he told me. I stood there till after 12 and then he told me it was time for lunch. Mr. Owens was sent out and I had to stand outside and wait in line during the lunch break. After Mr. Campbell came back, they went out to look for Mr. Owens again. That was about 1 o'clock. Then they told me to come in, too. When I went in, they took me into the office. That was about 1;15 p.m.

The office is a small room with a table with room for four chairs on each side. There was only one chair on each side of the table. Mr. Campbell was sitting on the other side. The applications was right on the table and so was a pen. I strated to fill out the form. I got section 21 - about the privilege of the writ of hadeas corpus. I wrote something about a written piece of paper and also that a person should go to court if he thinks he is being illegally held as a prisoner. On the duties of a citizen, I put: obey the laws, pay texes, and vote. I was taught that answer at registration classes. I asked Mr. Campbell one question. He said I had one question wrong (prior place of residence). I had put North Street - and he wanted me to put New Orleans, which I did. I asked him if I had passes. He said he would let me know in the next 30 days. I asked if I was supposed to sign my name on the book. He said he didn't have time and would let me know in 30 days. Other deputies were in and out while I was waiting. Mr. Campbell was listening to the radio while I was working. Mr. Campbell did not help me with my interpretation. I left at about 20 minutes after one. At that time, the line was from the steps to the gate, each side of the sidewalk on the west and and part of the north and south sides of the courthouse fence. There were about 200 people there. Mr. Griffin was let in right after me. I then went back to the Freedom House and then to the church.

s/ _____
MRS. MARION ROBINSON

Notarized

STATE OF MISSISSIPPI

COUNTY OF Madison

CHARLIE SCOTT, being duly sworn, says:

My name is Charlie Scott. I am a Negro. I was born in Madison County, June 26, 1910, and I have lived here all my life. I completed the 5th grade. I am a barber. I live at 318 Kennedy Street, Canton, Mississippi, with my wife, Katie and two children. I own my house and I pay about$34.00 into property tax to the city. I was in the Army from 1943 to 1945. I received an Honorable Discharge as a Private First Class. I am not a registered voter and never have been. I want tobecome a registered voter. I had tried to register before, about the summer of 1963, but the man in the office told me he was closed for the day.

I went up to register on Friday, February 28. I first went to Pleasant Green Church and I was one of the first 15 to go to the courthouse. I went to the courthouse by car and I think it was between 9 and 10 in the morning. I was with Mrs. Marion Robinson. We parked the car outside the gate. There were lots of deputies and policemen there. Billy Nobles asked everyone, "What are you here for?" I told him I was there to register. Mrs. Genova Watts was in the line most of the day but did not get to fill out a form. Nobles told us to stand inline. Bobby Gordon, a deputy sheriff told us, "Get in line, it's the second time I told you - I ain't going to tell you no more." He spoke in a rough tone to us.

I stood there all day. The line behind me was all the way around the courthouse fence. I got into the courthouse about 3 or 3:30. They just took people one at a time and I waited while a lady was filling out an application. Outside the office, there were no benches, no chairs, no nothing - we had to stand. I got into the Circuit Clerk's office about 4 o'clock (most of the people had gone by then). There was aform on the table. I did the best I could to fill it out. I got Section 21 of the Constitution. I wrote - it meant what it says and says what it meant but I don;t think I understood the question about the Constitution. On the duties of a citizen I wrote "Obey the laws and rules and regulations of Mississippi" or something like that. I started to ask Mr. Campbell some questions, but he said he was not supposed to help me. It took me about 30 minutes to fill out the form. After I finished he mumbled that it wouldn't do. He did not tell me to come back. He did not say anything about my name being published in the paper.

Inside the building, the high sheriff asked me where I work. I told him I was self-employed.

From the courthouse, I went by the church and no one was there, so I went home. There were lots of uniformed officers around all day at the courthouse.

s/ _____
CHARLIE SCOTT

Notarized

STATE OF MISSISSIPPI
COUNTY OF Madison

MRS. KATIE SCOTT, being duly sworn, says:

My name is Mrs. Katie Scott. I am a Negro. I was born in May, 1904, in Madison County, Mississippi. I have lived in Madison County all mu life. I finished 7th grade in school and I can read and write pretty well. I live at 318 Kennedy Street with my husband and two children. I am a housewife. Except for an incident on Febrary 28, 1964, which I will describe later, I have never been arrested or in trouble. I am not a registered voter. I would like to be a registered voter so I could be a citizen. I never registered before Friday because no one ever said for us to register. I heard of colored folk having trouble registering and that's why I had not gone before. But when people came here to encourage us to register I thought it was a good idea.

I went to the Pleasant Green Church on February 28, alone, and got there about 10 o'clock. Mr. Evers and Reverend Cox and some girls told us what to do. They said for us to go two by two. We went on down the street a piece and were stopped by some policemen or deputies. Some people snapped pictures but I do not know who they were. They told us to go two by two thirty yards apart. With me was Mrs. Hattie Thorner, who lives, I think, at 305 Kennedy Street. She is a Negro who can read and write. Mrs. Thorner wanted to register too. We got to the courthouse between 10:30 and 11:00 or around 11:00 a.m. I was standing in line near the fence with 200 or so in front of me. A man who said he was Billy Nobles questioned me. He wore a beige coat. He asked me what my name was and I told him. He asked me what I was there for. I told him I was there to register. He asked Mrs. Thorner the same things and she said the same, and the same questions and answers followed with a third lady. He told us to go out on the street. Some men with blue helmets said we could go back. Mrs. Thorner ran home. When I had got half way back, Nobles said I was under arrest. I asked for what. He said: "I want to talk with you." He took me in his car to the back of the jail. He asked me what I was there for. I said to register. He said I should have said "try to register." He said _____ me tell the men in the blue helmets that he had told me to leave. He said don't tell nobody that. He said "don't you know there would be tear gas and bloodshed." This was about 11 o'clock. Then he brought me back and put me at the back of the line. He came to ask again what I was there for. I told him I was going to try to register. He told me I had said it right this time. I stayed in the line till late afternoon. At about 3:20 p.m. Reverend Cox said we were dismissed. I never did get to fill out a form. They wre just letting people in one at a time even though there were about 200 or more in the line.

After we were dismissed, I went home. I am going to try to register again.

There were lots of policemen and deputies and others around the courthouse all day.

s/ _____
MRS. KATIE SCOTT

Notarized

A F F I D A V I T

CITY OF WASHINGTON)
) SS:
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA)

I, Robert T. Moore, having been duly sworn, says:

My name is Robert T. Moore. I am an attorney for the United States Department of Justice. I am familiar with the complaint in the case of United States v. L. F. Campbell, et al., and have made an anlysis of the registration records of Madison County, Mississippi in connection with this case.

On June 17, 18 and 21, 1963, the registration records of Madison County were inspected and photographed. I have examined the microfilm copies of the registration books currently in use in Madison County and a count of registrants on individual dyas reveals that on the following days twenty or more persons registered:

January 26, 1959	20 persons
January 31, 1959	29 persons
January 29, 1960	20 persons
January 30, 1960	23 persons
January 28, 1961	35 persons
January 30, 1961	30 persons
January 31, 1961	49 persons
February 6, 1961	22 persons
January 29, 1962	26 persons
January 30, 1962	21 persons
January 31, 1962	21 persons
January 26, 1963	38 persons
January 29, 1963	26 persons
January 30, 1963	33 persons
January 31, 1963	27 persons

I have examined the microfilm copies of the registration books currently in use in Madison County and they reveal that in excess of 5,000 white persons are registered out of the 5,522 white persons of voting age residing in Madison County (according to the 1960 census). Of the 10.366 Negroes of voting age, (according to the 1960 census) approximately 152 are registered to vote as of the date of inspection and photographing of the Madison County records.

s/ _____
ROBERT T. MOORE, Attorney
Department of Justice

Notarized

COPO COPY COPO COPY COPO COPY

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF MISSISSIPPI
JACKSON DIVISION

FILED MARCH 5, 1964

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

Plaintiff,

v.

L.F. CAMPBELL, CIRCUIT COURT CLERK AND REGISTRAR, MADISON COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI; and STATE OF MISSISSIPPI,

Defendants.

CIVIL ACTION NO. 3530 (J)(C)

C O M P L A I N T

The United States of America, plaintiff, alleges that:

1. This action is instituted by the Attorney General in the name of the United States, pursuant to the provisions of 42 U.S.C. 1971 as amended by Part IV of the Civil Rights Act of 1957 (71 Stat. 637) and Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1960 (74 Stat. 90).

2. This Court has jurisdiction of this action under 42 U.S.C. 1971 (d) and 28 U.S.C. 1345.

3. The State of Mississippi is joined as a party defendant pursuant to Section 601(b) of the Civil Rights Act of 1960.

4. L. F. Campbell is the Circuit Court Clerk and Registrar of Madison County, Mississippi, and an agent of the defendant state. He resides in Madison County, Mississippi.

5. Under Mississippi law registration is a prerequisite to voting in any election.

6. Defendant L. F. Campbell, as Circuit Court Clerk and Registrar of Madison County, and his agents, receive and pass upon applications for registration to vote and determine whether or not each applicant is qualified to register to vote.

7. There are approximately 10,366 Negroes and 5,622 white persons of voting age in Madison County. About 152 Negroes and ~~[illegible]~~ in excess of 5,000 white persons of voting age are registered to vote in this County.

8. The defendants, in conducting registration for voting ~~[illegible]~~ in Madison County, have engaged in racially discriminatory acts and practices which include, but are not limited to, the following:

(a) Applying different and more stringent stnadards to Negro applicants than to white applicants in determining whether such applicants are qualified to register to vote.

(b) Rejecting the applications of qualified Negroes.

(c) Failing and refusing to afford to Negro applicants the same or equal opportunity to register to vote as is afforded white applicants.

(d) Unreasonably delaying the receipt and processing of applications for registration from Negroes.

(e) Arbitrarily denying Negroes the opportunity to register to vote.

(f) Discouraging Negroes from attempting to register to vote.

9. The acts and practices of the defendants as described in paragraph 8 of this Complaint have deprived Negro citizens in Madison County, Mississippi, of the right to register to vote without distinction of race or color.

10. The deprivations referred to in the preceding paragraph of this Complaint have been and are pursuant to a pattern and practice.

11. The defendants will, unless restrained by order of this Court, continue to engage in the racially discriminatory acts and practices described in this Complaint.

WHEREFORE, plaintiff prays:

1. That this Court make a finding that the acts and practices of the defendants as described in this Complaint were and are racially discriminatory and constitute deprivations of the rights secured by 42 U.S.C. 1971(a), and that such deprivations were and are pursuant to a pattern and practice.

2. That this Court issue a preliminary and permanent injunction enjoining the defendants, their agents, employees and successors, and all persons acting in concert with them from:

(a) Engaging in any act which would deprive any citizen in Madison County of the right to register and the right to vote without distinction of race or color.

(b) Engaging in any acts which would delay, prevent, hinder, or discourage Negro citizens, on account of their race or color, from applying for, and becoming registered voters.

(c) Applying different or more stringent standards to Negro applicants for registration than those applied to white applicants for registration in determining whether such applicants are qualified to register to vote in Madison County.

(d) Failing and refusing to register any Negro citizen in Madison County who at the time of his application for registration possesses the same or similar qualifications as the least qualified white persons who have been deemed qualified and have been registered.

3. That this Court issue such additional orders as will insure the fair, equal and non-discriminatory administration of registration procedures in Madison County, Mississippi.

4. That this Court grant such additional relief as justice may require together with the costs and disbursements of this action.

s/ _____
ROBERT F. KENNEDY
Attorney General of the United States

s/ _____
BURKE MARSHALL
Assistant Attorney General

s/ _____
ROBERT E. HAUBERG
United States Attorney

s/ _____
JOHN DOAR
Attorney, Department of Justice

STATE OF MISSISSIPPI

COUNTY OF HINDS

CHARLIE ROBINSON, being duly sworn, says:

My name is Charlie Robinson, I was born on August 20, 1920 in Pelahatchie, Mississippi, in Rankin County. I am a Negro. I live with my wife and two young sons at 311 2d Firebaugh, Canton, Mississippi. I finished high school ~~#~~ in Canton, Mississippi. I was in the United States Navy from September, 1944, until June, 1946. I came out as Steward First Class. I received an honorable discharge. I was then in the Naval Reserve. I was called into the Navy again from December 1950 until April 1952. My discharge was again honorable. I now spray paint in a furniture factory for a living. My employer is the Sterkline Corporation. I pay some property tax each year, perhaps $25.00 or $30.00. Since 1955 I have paid poll tax fairly regularly but missed a year or two. I have never been arrested.

I first registered to vote in about 1949. The Registrar was Mr. Round. I believe that was his name. He registered me. I tried to vote one time but they told me my name was not on the book.

On Friday, February 28, I was working in Jackson, but I knew my wife was going up to register on Freedom Day and I approved of that. I want to vote, too, because I want a voice in what is going on. For that reason I decided to go ~~#~~ on February 29, 1964.

I left home at 9:30 for Mount Pleasant Church. My wife and my adopted son, Paul, came with me. I left my family and picked up Mrs. Ida Barnes, a Negro, to take her to the courthouse. She can read and write. I took her to the courthouse. She went inside and I returned to the church. At about 9:50 a group of us - about 12 - went in cars to the courthouse. We parked on the west side of the courthouse square at 10:00 o'clock. There were approximately 25 Negroes standing in line on the west side of the courthouse. There were about six policemen, the Sheriff, and about six deputies standing around. Mrs. Martha James, Center Street, a Negro, was in charge of the line. The Sheriff asked my name, address, and my business. I told him I wanted to re-register. He told me that you ~~#####~~ only had to register once; that was sufficient. He told me to get on across the street. They did not give me time to tell them my name had not been on the book when I had tried to vote. I went across the street as I was told.

I then sat in the car till about 11:45. I only saw one Negro go in to fill out a form. I believe the office closed at noon with people still waiting.

s/ _____
CHARLIE ROBINSON

Sworn to and subscribed before me
this 3rd day of March, 1964.

LORYCE E. WHARTON, CLERK, UNITED STATES
DISTRICT COURT, SOUTHERN DISTRICT
OF MISSISSIPPI

By s/ _____

STATE OF MISSISSIPPI

COUNTY OF Madison

MRS. LESSIE McCLENDON LUCKETT, being duly sworn states that:

My name is Mrs. Lessie McClendon Luckett. I was born in Madison,County, Mississippi, on August 4, 1927. I am a Negro. I am divorced. I live at 401 Cauthen Street with my mother. I operate a beauty shop in Canton. I finished high school in Canton. I have never been arrested.

I have never been a registered voter. I never tried before Friday, February 28, 1964, because I had heard of some Negroes who had been turned away and not permitted to register. This discouraged me from trying. After everyone said Friday would be Freedom Day I wanted to try too. I thought the whole thing was a good idea.

I went to the Courthouse with my sister, Mrs. Geneva Watts. I got to the courthouse at about 9:30. A group of Negroes who were to try to register had just started to come in to the gate and I went in the gate with them. Charley Scott and Wilbert Robinson and Mrs. Marian Robinson and some others, I don't know who, were there. I think I was the thirteenth in line. When we got to the gate, Deputy Billy Nobles asked people's names, ages, addresses, and why they were there. I told him I was there to register and I gave him the information he asked for. I stood outside the courthouse. I remained there until 20 minutes to three. They took people in one at a time. The third one was in when I left. There were so many still ahead of me, that I thought staying would do no good. I would say there were a hundred or more in my line and there were more lines besides that on the other side of the courthouse. I heard about their taking one old man to jail but I did not see it.

I observed a lot of policemen and deputies there all day. They asked people what they were there for and kept people from going into the courthouse until it was their turn. I saw some of the ministers standing across the street watching. They were not allowed to stand on the courthouse yard. I did not see any reason why they could not take more than one at a time. Nobody made any distrubances.

s/ LESSIE M. LUCKETT

Notarized

STATE OF MISSISSIPPI

COUNTY OF Madison

MRS. MARION ROBINSON, being duly sworn states that:

My name is Mrs. Marion Robinson. I am a Negro. I am 36 years old. I am married to Mr. Charlie Robinson and live with him and my two adopted sons at 311 Second Avenue, Canton, Miss. My husband works for Storkline ~~Furn~~ Corporation in Jackson. I am a housewife. I was born in New Orleans, La. on Jan. 6, 1928 and I have lived in Canton 12 years. I finished high school in New Orleans. I can read and write well. I have been a substitute/teacher in the Madison County schools. I have never been music arrested. During the past few weeks, I have been helping the COFO people with voter registration - house to house canvassing. I have been helping with voter registration because I wanted people to come to mass meetings so they could learn to fill out the forms and register.

I never tried to register before February 28, 1964, because I had heard of Negro people being turned away and I thought the same might happen to me. But on February 28 we started a large registration drive to register every Negro who wants to register. I want to take part ih citizenship activities and to vote and help my people obtain the right to vote.

I went to the Freedom House on Lutz Avenue at about 9:30 on Friday morning with three white ministers and Rev. Elton Cox and Miss Carol Merritt. We had a meeting and after the meeting we went over to the Pleasant Green Church of Christ Holiness U.S.A. There were about 250 people, mostly Negroes, there when we arrived. Inside they were having a meeting with instructions. Rev. Cox gave us instructions. He told us to march in single file on the right hand side of the street. Mr. Charles Evers collected all weapons. He made me open my purse to see if there were any weapons or a nail file in it. We left in three cars - fifteen of us - for the courthouse.

When we arrived, we were met by Sheriff Cauthen and Billy Nobles and Mr. Cooks, a City policeman and other law enforcement officers. When we got to the gate, the Sheriff asked George Raymond to state his business. He said he brought these people up to register. They told George he had to leave the courthouse lawn, so George turned us over to Wilbert Robinson. After they let us inside the gates, we were told to form a single line to the right of the sidewalk.* It was about 10 o'clock when I arrived there.

When we walked up to the steps, we were met by some more officers and Billy Nobles who stood on the steps blocking us. Nobles told Wilbert Robinson to state his business and Wilbert said he had brought us ~~in~~ in to register. Nobles then turned to me and asked me to state my business. I told him I came to register. Nobles then asked me my name, and told Wilbert he would have to leave, and another deputy told us to stand back and not to block the sidewalk. He was speaking quite roughly, as was Mr. Nobles. After we stayed in line, he took Mr. Owens in. This was about 10:30. I saw him (Mr. Owens) stand in the corrider about half an hour before he got into the Circuit Clerk's

* I was second in line. Mr. Mack Owens was first in line.

office.

At about 11:45, one of the deputies told me I could go into the courthouse. I went into the corridor and was told to stay there. I kept asking a deputy there what time it was and he told me. I stood there till after 12 and then he told me it was time for lunch. Mr. Owens was sent out and I had to stand outside and wait in line during the lunch break. After Mr. Campbell came back, they went out to look for Mr. Owens again. That was at about 1 o'clock. Then they told me to come in, too. When I went in, they took me into the office. That was about 1;15 p.m.

The office is a small room with a table with room for four chairs on each side. There was only one chair on each side of the table. Mr. Campbell was sitting on the other side. The application was right on the table and so was a pen. I strated to fill out the form. I got section 21 - about the privilege of the writ of habeas corpus. I wrote something about a written piece of paper and also that a person should go to court if he thinks he is being illegally held as a prisoner. On the duties of a citizen, I put: obey the laws, pay texes, and vote. I was taught that answer at registration classes. I asked Mr. Campbell one question. He said I had one question wrong (prior place of residence). I had put North Street - and he wanted me to put New Orleans, which I did. I asked him if I had passes. He said he would let me know in the next 30 days. I asked if I was supposed to sign my name on the book. He said he didn't have time and would let me know in 30 days. Other deputies were in and out while I was waiting. Mr. Campbell was listening to the radio while I was working. Mr. Campbell did not help me with my interpretation. I left at about 20 minutes after one. At that time, the line was from the steps to the gate, each side of the sidewalk on the west and and part of the north and south sides of the courthouse fence. There were about 200 people there. Mr. Griffin was let in right after me. I then went back to the Freedom House and then to the church.

s/ _____
MRS. MARION ROBINSON

Notarized

STATE OF MISSISSIPPI

COUNTY OF Madison

CHARLIE SCOTT, being duly sworn, says:

My name is Charlie Scott. I am a Negro. I was born in Madison County, June 26, 1910, and I have lived here all my life. I completed the 5th grade. I am a barber. I live at 318 Kennedy Street, Canton, Mississippi, with my wife, Katie and two children. I own my house and I pay about$34.00 into property tax to the city. I was in the Army from 1943 to 1945. I received an Honorable Discharge as a Private First Class. I am not a registered voter and never have been. I want tobecome a registered voter. I had tried to register before, about the summer of 1963, but the man in the office told me he was closed for the day.

I went up to register on Friday, February 28. I first went to Pleasant Green Church and I was one of the first 15 to go to the courthouse. I went to the courthouse by car and I think it was between 9 and 10 in the morning. I was with Mrs. Marion Robinson. We parked the car outside the gate. There were lots of deputies and policemen there. Billy Nobles asked everyone, "What are you here for?" I told him I was there to register. Mrs. Geneva Watts was in the line most of the day but did not get to fill out a form. Nobles told us to stand inline. Bobby Gordon, a deputy sheriff told us, "Get in line, it's the second time I told you - I ain't going to tell you no more." He spoke in a rough tone to us.

I stood there all day. The line behind me was all the way around the courthouse fence. I got into the courthouse about 3 or 3:30. They just took people one at a time and I waited while a lady was filling out an application. Outside the office, there were no benches, no chairs, no nothing - we had to stand. I got into the Circuit Clerk's office about 4 o'clock (most of the people had gone by then). There was aform on the table. I did the best I could to fill it out. I got Section 21 of the Constitution. I wrote - it meant what it says and says what it meant but I don;t think I understood the question about the Constitution. On the duties of a citizen I wrote "Obey the laws and rules and regulations of Mississippi" or something like that. I started to ask Mr. Campbell some questions, but he said he was not supposed to help me. It took me about 30 minutes to fill out the form. After I finished he mumbled that it wouldn't do. He did not tell me to come back. He did not say anything about my name being published in the paper.

Inside the building, the high sheriff asked me where I work. I told him I was self-employed.

From the courthouse, I went by the church and no one was there, so I went home. There were lots of uniformed officers around all day at the courthouse.

s/ CHARLIE SCOTT

Notarized

STATE OF MISSISSIPPI
COUNTY OF Madison

MRS. KATIE SCOTT, being duly sworn, says:

My name is Mrs. Katie Scott. I am a Negro. I was born in May, 1904, in Madison County, Mississippi. I have lived in Madison County all my life. I finished 7th grade in school and I can read and write pretty well. I live at 318 Kennedy Street with my husband and two children. I am a housewife. Except for an incident on Febrary 28, 1964, which I will describe later, I have never been arrested or in trouble. I am not a registered voter. I would like to be a registered voter so I could be a citizen. I never registered before Friday because no one ever said for us to register. I heard of colored folk having trouble registering and that's why I had not gone before. But when people came here to encourage us to register I thought it was a good idea.

I went to the Pleasant Green Church on February 28, alone, and got there about 10 o'clock. Mr. Evers and Reverend Cox and some girls told us what to do. They said for us to go two by two. We went on down the street a piece and were stopped by some policemen or deputies. Some people snapped pictures but I do not know who they were. They told us to go two by two thirty yards apart. With me was Mrs. Hattie Thorner, who lives, I think, at 305 Kennedy Street. She is a Negro who can read and write. Mrs. Thorner wanted to register too. We got to the courthouse between 10:30 and 11:00 or around 11:00 a.m. I was standing in line near the fence with 200 or so in front of me. A man who said he was Billy Nobles questioned me. He wore a beige coat. He asked me what my name was and I told him. He asked me what I was there for. I told him I was there to register. He asked Mrs. Thorner the same things and she said the same, and the same questions and answers followed with a third lady. He told us to go out on the street. Some men with blue helmets said we could go back. Mrs. Thorner ran home. When I had got half way back, Nobles said I was under arrest. I asked for what. He said: "I want to talk with you." He took me in his car to the back of the jail. He asked me what I was there for. I said to register. He said I should have said "try to register." He said _____ me tell the men in the blue helmets that he had told me to leave. He said don't tell nobody that. He said "don't you know there would be tear gas and bloodshed." This was about 11 o'clock. Then he brought me back and put me at the back of the line. He came to ask again what I was there for. I told him I was going to try to register. He told me if I had said it right this time. I stayed in the line till late afternoon. At about 3:20 p.m. Reverend Cox said we were dismissed. I never did get to fill out a form. They wre just letting people in one at a time even though there were about 200 or more in the line.

After we were dismissed, I went home. I am going to try to register again.

There were lots of policemen and deputies and others around the courthouse all day.

s/ _____
MRS. KATIE SCOTT

Notarized

AFFIDAVIT

CITY OF WASHINGTON)
) SS:
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA)

I, Robert T. Moore, having been duly sworn, say:

My name is Robert T. Moore. I am an attorney for the United States Department of Justice. I am familiar with the complaint in the case of United States v. L. F. Campbell, et al., and have made an anlysis of the registration records of Madison County, Mississippi in connection with this case.

On June 17, 18 and 21, 1963, the registration records of Madison County were inspected and photographed. I have examined the microfilm copies of the registration books currently in use in Madison County and a count of registrants on individual dyas reveals that on the following days twenty or more persons registered:

January 26, 1959	20 persons
January 31, 1959	29 persons
January 29, 1960	20 persons
January 30, 1960	23 persons
January 28, 1961	35 persons
January 30, 1961	30 persons
January 31, 1961	49 persons
February 6, 1961	22 persons
January 29, 1962	26 persons
January 30, 1962	21 persons
January 31, 1962	21 persons
January 26, 1963	38 persons
January 29, 1963	26 persons
January 30, 1963	33 persons
January 31, 1963	27 persons

I have examined the microfilm copies of the registration books currently in use in Madison County and they reveal that in excess of 5,000 white persons are registered out of the 5,522 white persons of voting age residing in Madison County (according to the 1960 census). Of the 10,366 Negroes of voting age, (according to the 1960 census) approximately 152 are registered to vote as of the date of inspection and photographing of the Madison County records.

s/ _____
ROBERT T. MOORE, Attorney
Department of Justice

Notarized

3-7-64 Ed Hollander

Unable to get a more official copy of this bill yet. Should be able to get one in the next couple of weeks, but am sending this in the meantime. The copy below is from the Jackson Clarion-Ledger February 28, 1964. The paper said it was the complete text of the bill. The author of the bill is state senator Ed Henry of Canton.

BY: SENATORS HENRY, JONES (46th), POWELL AND REISTER

REGULAR SESSION 1964

TO: JUDICIARY

SENATE BILL NO. 1545 (AS PASSED the Senate)

SECTION 1. If any person shall wilfully and maliciously print, circulate or distribute, cause to be printed, circulated or distributed, or assist in printing, circulating or distributing, in any form whatever, any matter, the purpose and design of the contents thereof being to wilfully and maliciously interfere with, or prevent another from exercising a lawful trade or calling, or engaging in a lawful business, or engaging in lawful use and enjoyment of his property, he shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and upon conviction thereof shall be punished by imprisonment for not more than six (6) months in the county jail or be fined not more than Five Hundred Dollars ($500.00), or both.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its passage.

CONGRESS OF RACIAL EQUALITY
Southern Regional Office
Rm. 203 2211 Dryades Street
New Orleans, Louisiana 70113

Unofficial transcript of the open session of the hearings held by the Mississippi Advisory Committee to the United States Civil Rights Commission

Natchez, Mississippi

Wednesday, May 6, 1964

The names of persons and places may not be spelled correctly because this transcript was made from a tape recording without the benefit of any of the Committee's written records.

The hearings were held in a basement room of the Natchez Post Office building and lasted approximately two hours. The Committee held closed sessions before and after the open sessions

Present from the Mississippi Advisory Committee were:

Albert B. Britton, M.D.
Jackson, Mississippi

Mrs. Martin L. Harvey
Jackson, Mississippi

Very Rev. Robert C. Hunter
Bay St. Louis, Mississippi

From the Commission's Washington staff were:

William Taylor, General Counsel

Courtney P. Siceloff

ARCHIE C. CURTIS My name is Archie C. Curtis, funeral director living in Natchez, Mississippi. On February 16th approximately at 1:15 I was awakened by a telephone call and I answered Curtis Funeral Home and a white man asked who is talking and I said Curtis talking. He said I am Borress; John Goodman's wife has fallen with a heart attack and he wants your ambulance to come and get her and carry her to the hospital. I say who is talking and he repeated back, I said I don't know where John Goodman lives. He said come on the Palasine Road beyond the black top and when you get to the end of the black top there will be a man there with a lantern to show you where John Goodman lives. I then said all right and called my helper which is Willie Jackson. Willie Jackson said he'd be ready in a few minutes; I goes and get Willie Jackson and get the ambulance and goes on out on the Palasine Road. When I goes out to Palasine Road and get to this end of black top, to the gravel, I didn't see anyone. I told Willie, my helper, I SAID this seem like to be a false call. Just then we seen a car behind us through the mirror and I said allright I'll go on down furhter and when this car get here I'll see if they can direct us which way to go if I don't see no one else. When I goes to the end of this gravel road and gets to the pavement this car stop behind my ambulance with the lights on. I rolled my glass down and waved for it to come on by. Instead of it coming by two men jumped out on my side with guns and two on Willie's side, ordered us out of the ambulance. I was a little reluctant about getting out and a third man came up with a Winchester or with a rifle of some kind, some sort, he said didn't you hear those men say get out, they mean get out. Then I got out and they struck me on the hand with the gun and blindfolded me, jerked my glasses off and blindfolded me, and led me on to the car they was in; they did Willie likewise, they taken his handkerchief out of his picket and

blindfolded him he said. Put us in the front seat with the driver; I was next to the driver. We was on our side. And the other men which I presume there was about four got in the rear seat of the car and drove on about two miles and a half, three approximately and they told the driver that's all, this all right and he stops the car, taking us a little piece from the car ordered us to get out of our clothes. In getting out of our clothes he started to whipping me and told me to give him that NAACP card in my pocket. I told him I don't have no NAACP card in my pocket. He said you, yes you and that damn West know the members of the NAACP and I want that card. They hit me some more licks and I said man, don't hit me I have a stroke. And at that time another one spoken and said we ought to kill him and someone else in the crowd, I don't know who, said no, just leave them here and then they stopped whipping me. I immediately jerked the blindfold off my eyes soon as they got away to try to recognize the car and the license number but I was too far a distance and I couldn't see the license number of the car. We wandered in the place where we were about an hour or an hour and a half trying to find out way out and every road we went into it led us to an oil well so finally I told Willie, let's go out the road they went out and we started out that road and finally we come back to the road where we turned in that road off the gravel road off the highway, and I seen my ambulance I presumed it was, finding it was it and I went on to it I had left my red lights on but I had my headlights off, my battery was down. When I arrived there I couldn't get started so finally we got it on to the side of the road. I told Willie let's get out and try to get on back to town. I know a friend out there Norman Ville, I asked him to bring us on to town. He was in bed. He got up and brought us on totown. I say carry me to the sheriff's office. We went on the sheriff's office, reported to the sheriff's. He wasn't there but his deupties come and reported to them. They say you don't have much for us to go up on,

you don't know the names of the four people and you don't know their identity by them having hoods on their face and blindfolding you but we'll do our best. So that's all they said. We left and I went on home. And two or three days two FBI mens came out to see me and I told them the story and they say they would make an investigation of it.

Question* What do you have to make of this situation, do you have any statement to make as to ?

Answer I don't know why they would do that. I wasn't interested in the NAACP at all; we don't have one here. Only thing I presume they did because I was interested in trying to get our people registered and voting. But I belongs to the Natchez Business and Civil League an organization which promotes better character and better relationships and encouraging our people to register and vote.

Q Have you taken anyone down to the courthouse to assist him in getting registered?

A I have taken quite a few, not recently but one or two years ago I did but not recently I haven't taken no one down to assist.

Q You yourself, Mr. Curtis, you're a registered voter ?

A I am, I and my wife both

Q How long ago was it that you registered ?

A seven years ago

Q And this incident took place in February of this year ?

A the 16th, 19 and 64

Q Had you been involved in assisting people to register to vote during that period just before the ?

A During that whole year, during the year we have had meetings and encouraging our people to vote, to register and vote.

Q Do you think that this might have had anything to do with your being taken out and beaten up ?

A That's the onliest thing that I can see

* All questioning done by the Committee's members and the Commsn.'s staff

Q You mentioned Mr. West as somebody who's also

A He's a friend of mine, competitor in the funeral business, he's a funeral director

Q And is he similarly active ?

A He was formerly president of the Natchez Business and Civic League

Q And the people who took you out mentioned his name at the same time?

A That's right

Q Had you had any prior threats before this ?

A No sir, no, none at all

Q You can't identify any of the people ?

A No, really I can't cause I was blindfolded when they taken me out of the ambulance and put in their car

Q When the blindfolds were taken off you had an idea of where you were, you said it was near some oil wells ?

A I was out in the field, they call it down at Duck Pond I think they call it; I didn't know, I found out later that's what it was

Q Was this in the city limits of Natchez ?

A It was in Adams County, I don't know if it was in the city limits but it was in Adams County

Q Would it be any place on this map here do you think, I guess that's just the city

A Yes, it's just the city; it was on the south end of town though

Q The south side of town?

A That's right

Q There's a national forest around here someplace isn't there around in this county ?

A National forest ?

Q Yes, forget what the name of it Homochitto, was it anywhere hear there?

A No sir

Q Mr. Curtis, did you during the month of January, you or Mr. West

or your organization put forth any special effort either to get Negroes registered to register or pay their poll tax ?

A We did. We put forth special effort, we had a meeting and asked them out and then we met at many churches, club meetings, societies and different things to encourage them to register and vote

Q I understand that there was pronably a connection between your activity and the time to get you was then; was it four men in hoods, you think it was four ?

A I know it was four because two got on my side and two on Willie's side but a third man come up which made me know it was five

Q While they were blindfolding you were they wearing hoods ?

A They had the hoods on when they came up; they had hoods, I presume it was hoods came down about as far as here (indicates middle of chest)

Q Mr. Curtis, have you had any further threats ?

A I had one, I had two calls

Q And did you have to have hospitalization ?

A I didn't have to have hospitalization but I had medical attention

Q Were you both beaten ?

A Both beaten, both of us beaten. I've had calls to come notarize papers, come out and notarize some papers but I refuse to go. I invite them to come and have me notarize the paper but they never did come

Q What sort of a weapon were they using to beat you, was it a real black snake whip as we call them ?

A It was some sort of a whip; I didn't see it but I could presume from the popping of it I heard it was some sort of a whip

Q Was this reported in the newspapers at all ?

A It was reported in the local newspaper, our colored State Bulletin. I gave them the story of it and he wrote the story; it wasn't published in the local Natchez Democrat we have here, no

Q You said the local police did talk to you after this and they said ?

A The local sheriff and his deputies, no policemen have talked with me

whatever

Q Do you know whether either the sheriff or his deputies or local police, do you know of anything they did after this ?

A I called them and asked them had they had any trace of any of the men, any of the parties who was involved and I went down to the sheriff's office and he told me that they hadn't any trace of them whatever, but they had an idea who was doing it

Q And since then you haven't heard anything ?

A Haven't heard anything else

Q You say you were treated by a doctor ?

A I was treated by a physician, my family doctor physician

Q Did you have to stay in bed for any period of time ?

A Haven't had to stay in bed, no

Q Mr. Curtis, one other question, now, do you know of other incidents of beatings, shootings, or other acts of violence on the part of citizens in this area or law enforcement officers ?

A I've know of a couple of fellows that was tken out and beaten one was from the tire plant [redacted] his name was

Q You don't have to give the details on this right now unless you wish I just want to know, I'm just trying to find out if violence in this area is actually a fact and it it's worse now than it has been ?

A Ever has been, have never been this bad. Relationships here have been good.

Q Do you feel that local enforcement officers could control this situation or that they made an attempt to control the situation as far as you know ?

A I believe they could do better by putting more serious action in trying to catch these people. I believe it could be stopped

Q Do you think Negroes or other people who may be victims or this kind of violence need any protection ?

A Yes, I do

Q I wonder if you would have any hesitancy about saying the names of the people in instances that he knows of

A I don't know all of them names but I know two of them this boy at the tire plant was Afford Whitley he was taken out and beat up. It was before my time because he was in the hospital ~~twoo2~~ two weeks, and I can't think of his name

Q All this took place this year around the same time you were beaten ?

A That's right

Q Mr. Curtis, you said that relationships here had been very good

A James Carter Winston, that's the name of the other one who worked at the paper mill

Q What do you attribute the breakdown in relationships to be now, Why ?

A Voting and registering and the sit-in demonstrations;we haven't had any here, no we haven't had any demonstrations of any kind.

Q OK, Mr. Curtis, thank you very much

EVELINA TOBIAS My name is Evelina Tobias and I have came to tell about on April the 18 there was a shooting occurred which was six shots, my father said they was buckshot, made and they scattered on the top of our house. And we saw the people that shot the shots and after those shots was made it was a car that cranked up below our house and went up the road speeding and after it went up the road speeding it came back and went over to that house so we don't know what the talk concerning of that but the next Friday night which was April the 24 there was a phone call made to Castor Tobias which lived right over back of us as our neighbor and told him that he had 24 hours to get out of Liberty and well he left the next morning, he didn't leave that night, he left the next morning. And after he left that next morning Mr. Westbrook came down, he heard about it, he runs

the cotton gin in Liberty, he's a white gentlemam. He came down and asked where was Castor and his son-in-law told him that he had got a phone call and had told him to get out of Liberty and after that he said, well you know anything that Castor did, he said no, not a thing that he did and he told about the shots that was made on our house and all and he went back to town and told the sheriff. Mr. Westbrook did, went back to town and told the sheriff which is Mr. Daniel John that those shots had been made on our house and they had put Cassie out, so he rowed and cussed around with Mr. Daniel and Mr. Daniel went and got Castor and told him to come back home which he is back home now. But they has been some people that drove up and down the road and pointed over there and said that's where he lives and has been making different trips backwards and forwards on the back side coming through the woods back over there to find him out and that same Friday night there was a car came to our house and skidded around on our stump but we was unable to get the tag number to find out who it was

Q It was your home, Miss Tobias, that was shot into?

A That's right

Q And you say you saw the person who did it ?

A Yes sir, they live across the road from us

Q And you know the person's name ?

A Yes sir

Q And you said that subsequently the sheriff came to see you or came to see your family ?

A He came down to see our family but we wasn't home, we was on work and he asked the children about it. Of course after since there's been so violence around there well we told the children don't ever talk with anybody around so they told him they didn't know anything about it so he said that he would talk with my father but he never did come back to talk with him

Q You haven't given the name of the person who did it to the sheriff ?

A No, I haven't but he know who it is

Q Now who was the man who left town ?

A Castor Tobias

Q He's also a member of your family ?

A Yes sir

Q How is he realated ?

A Cousin

Q He didn't live in your house ?

A No he doesn't live in our house, ~~he~~ he lives over back of our house ~~as~~ one of our neighbors

Q You have any idea about why all this took place ?

A Well yes sir, I have an idea why it taken place, because they had [redacted] asked him was he a member of the NAACP and which on sometimes a couple of years back they taken some books that he had because he was the president of the NAACP and they been picking at him ever since

Q Now you say this took place on April 18th ?

A and April 24th

Q What time on April 18th, was this during the day or night ?

A Well all of this occurred at night. The shots was made around 11 at night on our house and according to Cassie Tobias' wife the phone call was made around 8 o' clock at night.

Q And did somebody drive up in a car ?

A Yes sir, on our stump, this was ~~on~~ done about 11, between 10:30 and 11 o' clock

Q And they got out of the car ?

A No, they didn't get out of the car cause I turned the light on in the hall and cut it off right quick

Q Do you know how many people there were in the car ?

A No I do not

Q Could you actually see the people in the car or you recognize the car ?

A Well we didn't exactly recognize the car, we know it was a Ford car and it was black and white, that was all so we didn't get the tag number

Q But I'm not sure I understand how did you know who it was who did it?

A These shots that was made on our house, well see we didn't see this part, we saw the people and the people live across the road from us, which they are white people and they live across the road from us. Well, when the shots was made we didn't think anything about it we thought probably somebody was picking at them or something and they made the shots, and the car cranked up down the road from our house and went up the road and come back in there and then they left out again. And this was the next Friday night after they burned the cross at Central High which is the colored school there in Liberty when the car skidded on our stump and we figured out that they was trying to put a cross at our house

Q And your cousin that you mentioned that was a member of the NAACP, had he done anything else such as trying to get people in that area registered to vote ?

A Not as I know of

Q Is he employed now ?

A No more than farming; his wife's a school teacher

Q Usually there's something, now like April the 18th can you think back to some incident that precipitated or started this thing off. Usually there is some hassle or quarrel or something like that and then usually it's a week later that they've decided what to do so they start shooting on the April the 18th. There was no public quarrel or public agitation ?

A Well, there were no quarrels there around in our community as we know about but we had heard you know community talk that they were going to put us out of Liberty, they they were going to run us away before those shots was made.

Q Why ?

A Well I don't know definitely why; some say that they figured out my father was in the NAACP and about five or six months ago we taken a survey of all unemployment around that area

Q Do you own your own house home ?

A Yes we do

Q Is it a farm ?

A No, we don't farm

Q OK, thank you very much

[she gave her address to the committee as Liberty, Mississippi, Route 5, Box 225]

FRANK ROBINSON I'm Frank Robinson from Centreville, Mississippi; my post box is 614. I'm a citizen of Mississippi and a citizen of Wilkinson County, of course I've been a taxpayer for over 25 years and I have been deprived from my voting rights. Every time that I go up to vote of course I'll be turned down and away from the polls. In other words, after I paid poll tax for several years and so I asked myself a question, said if they won't let me vote I'm going to ask why do they take my poll tax, so I put pressure, said, well I'm paying poll tax I'm entitled to register and vote so they give me some alibi just why they was charging that poll tax but they wouldn't let me vote, so then they called me a little smart and they wouldn't accept the poll tax no longer to keep from voting

Q When was the last time that you made an attempt to register ?

A It was about four years ago and ?

Q The last time you made an attempt to register was four years ago ?

A Three years ago was the last time, the ?

Q Do you have any reason why you haven't been back since that time ?

A Well naturally there would always be the big gang there you know turn around your back when you come to vote

Q You mean to keep you from registering ?

A There you go, they won't let you to the courthouse to register to vote

Q Now what do you mean by a big gang, do you mean officers or just citizens ?

A Just citizens, a bunch of citizens, want toknow when you pay your poll tax, they used to let you pay your poll tax, they tellyou to get on out, so they quit that then and wouldn't accept no poll tax, if you try to pay your poll tax anyway going to be somebody around looking in, see somebody is going to be around looking on see when you pay your tax, your property tax they see you get on out, to pay your tax and get on out

Q So now you can not pay poll tax and you have not paid poll tax for three years

A There you go, and I wants to pay my money. If they won't accept it naturally I can't pay it, can I ?

Q Are you aware of the fact that you don't have to pay your poll tax to register ?

A You got to pay your poll tax or you can't register, now they had one fellow he's a business owner (?) at Woodville, he paid his poll tax but what they done, they made all the questions they asked so complicated and it would take a man with a Ph. D. to answer them, so he told him don't feel bad, come back another year, you still got another chance. He asked him, he said, well, would they be the same questions, he say I don't know. They skip about in that thick book about like that [indicates book is 4-5 inches thick], put those hard constitutional questions to you so probably you might not, you don't feel bad it's many of the best of them (?)

Q Are you employed ?

A I'm self employed

Q And the name of your town again ?

A Centreville, Mississippi, I have a box in the post office 614

Q There really hasn't been any unpleasantness in your transactions, there hasn't been a fight, there hasn't been any quarrelling, there hasn't been any harsh words or anything; it's more or less just a kind of a friendly you don't vote ?

A That's right

Q And outside of a little intimidation it hasn't come to a head or anything ?

A It's no threat, just won't let me pay no poll tax. ~~Of course~~ Because, I paid it and I demanded to vote so they quit accepting it because I continued demand, I pay them, I continue demand

Q Are there any Negro registered voters in Centreville ?

A I beg your pardon, you wouldn't find a record, they couldn't produce a record in the courthouse where no Negro has registered to vote

Q Nobody votes, no Negroes ?

A Not in Wilkinson County

Q Isn't it Wilkinson County where you have a junior college, do you have a college there ?

A At Woodville, which is the county seat, you see I live 14 miles over, see Woodville is on 61 of course I live on 48, it's out east of Woodville

Q Really you don't know of any Negroes who are registered in that County ?

A I know because the school teachers disqualify, you wouldn't pass

Q All right, OK

FATHER MORRISEY I'm Father Morrisey, pastor of Holy Family Catholic Church here in Natchez. Well, on the one hand there is

many incidences that I have in mind but since they involve other people and I have not cleared it with them to use their names I don't feel justified in so using. But I can refer to some of them. I know of one individual outside of town who had some cross burnings and warnings, had to get rid of his home and property and now lives in town. I'm told that just today or yesterday of another incident, a relative of his who owns a store and property has been warned to leave the county. He is in the process of disposing of his property and leaving the area. There are other details that perhaps might identify him and I don't think I should mention them. I don't know whether it was mentioned that there's a man working, was working at one of the local plants. While either at work or toward the end of the work day was warned, [redacted] given, well [redacted] a ridiculously short time to get out of town. Didn't even wait long enough, I understand, to cash his check but came home and piled his wife and family and what possessions they could into the car and left I believe he's now in New Orleans but he was in the process of paying I believe an FHA loan on his house so it's not even been paid for yet. He got in touch with his real estate man to get what he could for the house. I don't know whether it's sold or not sold or at what loss. About the time that Mr. Curtis was beaten and his employee, there are a number of instances, most of these things seem to in my mind stem back to approximately last October and on, I know of a couple of persons who were beaten, just picked up, it seems, along the road and the only pattern I can see at that time to some of these beatings was perhaps a suspicion in the minds of some of these hoodlums that there was an organized movement underway perhaps in town, the NAACP or what, because in a couple of these instances they seemed to be beating for the sake of forcing information

as to workers, and membership lists, and things of that nature out of them. So whether there's any signifigance in the individuals chosen to be beaten, who in these cases were not prominent individuals, I don't know. I think it was possibly in some cases picking some Negroes at random thinking perhaps they could scare or beat or frighten information out of them. There was this case in the paper this man by the name of Butler, Mr. Butler, that's public record and can be checked on. He was beaten, the details are in the paper and the details are easily available. And I was called out of town for a funeral and when I got back I was told that a ~~xxxxx~~ man, a white man, was picked up and I believe, I may be wrong on this, having been identified by the victim. I may be wrong but that's what I ~~am~~ told. But I am also told, whether it's ture or not, I don't know yet, I just found out today that he was not indicted or aything I believe it was dismissed for lack of evidence. The gentleman ahead of me spoke of Wilkinson County. A relative of ony of my parishoners lives down there and is one of the extremely few, to put it mildly, Negroes that I understand are registered. He was going to vote in the last elections. He was visited by some individuals and told not to vote and before they left I am told that they gave him a card on which was written or it said, you'll hear from us if you try to vote. Some of his friends appealed to him not to vote, he agreed not to vote so he didn't and the back of the card was signed by the KKK. What the connection may be I wouldn't say, but within a short time after than one of his barns, his barn or one of his buildings was burned down. One thing that I can speak of first-hand information, back in October-November the SNCC people had individuals, representatives who were in here for the sole purpose of working on voter registration and getting the people out to vote. Now I was present at the meeting at which they outlined their plans and tried to enlist as much local support

as they could. It was three individuals or four. It was a young colored man, two white students, and I can't think of her name, also I believe a representative of SNCC, who happened to be going through town, a Negro lady. As I recall, I may be hazy on a particular day or a particular lapse of days here, but they found no lodging and the three men the day before the lady arrived in town I found lodging finally at this colored boarding house. I believe it was the very first night they were there that one of the white students left the house and within a few moments was picked up for accused of passing a red light I believe and booked on suspicion of driving a stolen car. To make a long story short I believe in return for him leaving town and upon verification of ownership of the car they dropped those charges. However, it was a night or so following this that I was at this meeting during which the car that these people were driving was opened, the hood was opened and the sand, gravel, dirt, and such was put into the motor making it inoperable. At the same time they could get no lodgings. I brought them to the rectory to see if they could find lodging for the lady for the night anyway and after a number of calls as soon as they found out who she was there was just no room. The colored young man that was involved offered his room at the lodging house and he offered to sit up the night until a bed would be available. There was no other beds available and for many reasons I offered to the, his name is Bruce Payne a Yale student and a member of SNCC. He stayed through three or four days. I'm not sure which now. I think his life might have, ~~beeen~~ well have been in danger especially as subsequent events would indicate if he had not stayed there. Otherwise he would have used a sleeping bag I believe it was in the car along the road somewhere. Now he was there only a few days but during that time on one occasion he and his co-worker and the, I believe they were on their way up to or through Port Gibson at the

moment and somewhere on this side of Port Gibson I believe it was, it was in that area anyway, they were stopped and he was beat, just Mr. Payne. A day or two later they were leaving town with the idea of going back to Jackson and they stopped to tell me and [illegible] they were going, and naturally he had been staying with me; they left and about fifteen minutes later he came back rather upset saying that the same individuals in the same car that had stopped them previously and beat them, beat him rather, had followed them around town so he thought he'd like just to let us know so in case anything did happen that were where they were heading and so forth. Now they were stopped I think just this side of Fayette. The colored lad was driving the car, told to get out and at the same time somebody pulled a gun. Well they saw the gun, luckily there was enough space for him to gun the car in second and he got away at the moment and tore down the road. Eventually they had to race through Fayette, through a couple of red lights I understand. They were shot at; they have bullet holes in the car and the tire to prove it. They luckily managed to get off into a side road and it was one of these slow leaking tires and they were able to shake their pursuers before the tire went flat. The managed to change it and eventually by using back roads get on the road to Jackson. This information, they recognized the car. I believe they recognized some of the individuals they had the license number on two occasions; it was turned over to the FBI, I don't know whether here or to Washington or both. So that's about the extent of my first hand knowledge that I could repeat anyway as first hand of what has gone on around here. I will say this though in general that Natchez is in a reign of terror. It is not quite so obvious this last couple of weeks whether because they desire a lull before election time, maybe because some of these unreasonable hate groups have perhaps overstepped themselves in their hate literature to the extent

of embarassing office seekers and therefore sort of a slow down or halt has been called I don't know. At least one letter has gone around, I didn't think of it or I would have brought it with me but I think I can get one for you, in which we ourselves are attacked as harboring agitators, inciting everything up to I guess rebellion, accused of being Communist minded, Communist sympathizers, so forth based upon this incident of last October-November. There are many other such articles out attacking various other individuals and groups, the Ministerial Alliance and others who have seen fit to voice some concern about conditions. Things have gotten to the point where even for parochial reasons many people are afriad to come to my rectory. Many people who, many individuals, who would have legitimate reasons as members of my parish to come and see me, have hesitated to do so because they feel, they realize that the house is under surveillance a good deal of the time. I myself during this October-November period was followed on two ocasions by one or two cars filled with these thugs. Whether they would have intended to accost me or not I don't know. I know on these occasions I was going to see someone and I purposely took a roundabout way and changed my direction so as to make it obvious that if I was being followed that there would be no doubt it. I returned home rather than lead these cars to any of my parishoners' homes and subject them to possible danger.

Q Now may I interrupt you just a moment. We want to adjourn the meeting for just a moment and then we'll call you back.

A Well, I am about finished I think for all practical purposes

Q All right, and I would like to ask that the members step into this room while we have a conference. Well all of you who wish to wait wait in this room here.

[It was not announced, but the recess was called for a search of the hearing room, in response to a bomb threat phone call.]

[after recess]

Q Any questions for the Father from the Committee ?

WILLIE THOMPSON Willie Thompson, McComb, 808 Alexander Street. A few days ago, the 16th of April I was told to unload some material, was too heavy, in other words it was too much for me to unload and I asked for help and the foreman told me no, say you won't get any help, said you loaded it by yourself and you shall unload it and you shall unload it and distribute it by yourself. I said yes sir I sure will, I said but some of those pices down there I can't unload by myself, down in the body you know, about four feet in the body. So he say you'll do it or go home, and so I said some of these pieces I just might have to go home and cause I can't get them out of there. So they took me to the office and I met the second foreman, general foreman and he asked me what was my trouble and I told him the foreman had told me to go an unload a load of material up there and it was too heavy and I needed some help and he said you go on and get you some help and he called a man's name and told me who to get and get the tractor and get some wagons and unload it and I say yes sir and I went on and whilst I was going, why another foreman overtaken me and says well lets go to the office, we had enough trouble out of you and so they carried me on down there and pulled me out of service.

Q What was the company where you were working, where were you working ?

A Illinois Central Railroad in McComb

Q What kind of materials were they ?

A What kind of material ? It was baggage car material, truck

siding, they call it sandboard, and brakebeams and brakehandles. Those brakebeams weight about two-fifty each, sandboard the same.

Q How long have you been employed by the IC ?

A I started to wrk there in September 44. 20 years

Q Haven't you got any association or grievance committee or any group that you can appeal to ?

A Well, we have some set up there but it just ain't no good to tell you the truth about it

Q The job that you were asked to do, had you been doing similar jobs in the past ?

A Well, yes sir, but now here's what happened, they had been sending thay stuff up there, separate you see, on three wagons and at this time the material man they had loaded all on one wagon and me and another gentleman up there was doing the sanding, we were working a sanding machine so me an him take it out and me and him put it back you see after we sanded, we taken it out to sand and we put it back and that day why they sent it all on one wagon and they're supposed to divide it out and put it on three wagons you see and we can handle it better

Q Was the load per person any greater at the time that you had to handle it alone from other times ?

A Yes sir because it was all mixed up you see. Brakebeams and sandboard is almost as long as this [desk] and about this wide you see and it was solid iron, well they had all that stuff in there together see and we had to pull it out. So me and a white gentleman put it back in there after we had sanded, took us both, then the man ordered me to take it out by myself, told me I should take it out by myself or go home

Q And you asked for help ?

A Yes, I asked for help

Q And they refused to give you help ?

A He did, but the other foreman give me some help and I was going on to joining him and another foreman came and took me away and wouldn't let me to do it

Q So you lost your job at the railroad ?

A Yes, yes

Q Isn't there anybody that you can appeal to, some higher manager of the railroad or somebody in that particular office. The Illinois Central is a big outfit and should be reliable in every way and have a pretty good system of taking care of complaints. So that it couldn't be you saw the first foreman ordered you, the second foreman really offered you some help, now a third man came along, was he higher than the other ? And then did he do the actual firing, or did you get a notice of firing, or did he fire you on the spot and just simply say you're fired ?

A Well, they didn't tell me exactly that I was fired, but they said they pulled me out of serivce and they didn't say until when, and I went to sign up down there and the claim agent told me, said, I askad him we're supposed to file a claim with our name and address 15 days and I asked him must I do that and he said no, he you're considered as fired.

Q So you haven't filed anything ?

A No, I haven't

Q There must be somebody who will give your case a consideration, it seems like he spoke almost in anger when he fired you

A Well, there is somebody, I'll agree with you, they are somebody but it won't act

Q Do you feel that there are other reasons besides the fact that you refused to handle this job alone of why you might have been fired ?

A Yes sir

Q What other reasons would you say?

A Well, let's see, I think it was the 24th of February I think, of last year, my daughters went down to the depot and went around on the side that was marked and designated as the white side and they was beaten with chains and clubs and driven out and I was approached about that

Q You were approached by that, what do you mean, from whom and what type

A Well, they come on the job where I was and told me that I better make my daughters mind and stay out of a place where they ought not to go and I didn't know anything about it you see at that time

Q How old were your daughters ?

A 16 and 14

Q The people who came to you, approached you concerning this, were these employers, people you worked for ?

A Yes sir

Q OK, Mr. Thompson, thank you

CHARLES BRYANT Charles Bryant, Route 1, Box 49, McComb and

the statement I have is of the burning of the cross in front of our church.

Q In front of your church ?

A That's right

Q When did this take place ?

A Approximately two months ago, I don't remember the exact date

Q Approximately two months ago. and why do you think the cross was burned in front of your church ?

A Well, I think the purpose of it is to cause the people to become frightened and alarmed you know to the extent that they will submit

to any condition.

Q You mean the Negro people ?

A Yes, the Negro people. That's my personal opinion.

Q Had your church participated in any way in civil rights movement such as preaching the good citizenship rights, registration, voting ?

A Yes, they do that

Q Have there been mass meetings

A Well, there have been one. Attorney Hall from Jackson came down once and addressed the people

Q Was that approximately close to this date ?

A Yes

Q Have there been mass meetings in other churches in McComb ?

A Yes, there have

Q Have they had cross burnings ?

A Well, there have been some other churches, but the churches that were ~~most~~ more active in this affair, there weren't any burning there.

Q What is your church, Methodist or Baptist ?

A Baptist

Q What's the name of the church ?

A Sweet Home

Q Would you, I'm just curious about this cross as to its size, and did you see it planted out there or were you away when it started burning ?

A I was away when it started burning

Q And how big a cross is it, and how is it constructed ?

A Oh, I would say it was approximately five feet high

Q And with a cross bar, and wound with some cloth or something and soaked in oil or something ?

A Yes, something

Q And a match set to it or something and it burned, you saw it

burning ?

A Yes, I saw it burning, and the police officers came and collected it

Q Have there been many other cross burnings in your area ?

A Quite a few

Q Do you know of any individuals who have been caught or arrested for this, for burning crosses ?

A No, I don't know of anyone

Q And what about acts of violence in your area against Negroes who might have taken part in some type of civil rights movement, do you know of such ?

A Well, not in particular

Q What is your membership in that church, a deacon, a steward ?

A Just a layman

Q Ok, thank you very much

JOHN DUE Mr. Cahirman and members of the committee, My name is John Due. I am a member of the Florida Bar and I reside at the present time in Atlanta, Georgia and I'm here at the request of Mr. or Rev. Arthur Thomas of the National Council of Churches, 475 Riverside Drive, NewYork City, New York. I'm here in order to, I was requested to determine whether or not there are people in certain counties, southwestern counties of Mississippi who would learn or would like to learn of the existence of the United States Civil Rights Commission, than an advisory committee is having hearings in Natchez, Mississippi todgy and whether or not they had any information which they would like to give before this advisory committee. One of the first places I went was to Copiah County, Mississippi. I would like to submit a statement. This is the problem I had in trying to find information, trying to find statements which should be notarized, the problem being that because

of the facts which are alleged in these type of affidavits receiving the services of a notary public would either be frivolous or would put the person who is making the statement in jeapordy of bodily harm or death. Under the circumstances thereof, I witnessed the statements they made and then made an affidavit that I did see the witness say these statements which were notarized, the statement thereof which I made, that I witnessed is notarized. As you observe that is the statement of Mr. Frank Clasp who observed or made a statement about the burning of crosses. I would like to bring before the Committee an example of this cross. This is the particular cross which he is making a statement there in that paper. [cross is brought in] You can observe, I guess, how tall it is and other parts of it. According to the statement Mr. Clasp makes, this type of cross and other crosses were burned in the Negro community in Copiah, called the ? Negro community, which is called Beauregard.

Q Where did this particular one come from ?

A Where did it come from, the wood? This was at an intersection right near a railroad crossing, going right into this Negro community, it was actually also near a white-owned store, Mr. Kelly I believe is the name of the owner of the store. Also according to that statement crosses were burned this same night or on other nights within the area.

Q No attempt was made to take fingerprints from it ?

A No, it was lying there to be picked up by anyone

COMMITTEE I will read this now. State of Mississippi, County of Copiah, Frank Clasp being first duly sworn disposes and says

1. That he resides at Route 4, Wesson in the city of Beauregard, County of Copiah, State of Mississippi,

2. That on April the 24th, 1964, at the intersection a cross was burned at the intersection after crossing the railroad tracks

into Beauregard, a community of about 2 or 300 Negroes until a few white families moved into the community. This cross was on the railroad property and was also near a white-owned general store, Mr. Kelly Louis' store, Other crosses have been burned near the Negro quarters in the month of January. It is the general knowledge that crosses have been burned all over Brookhaven near Negro places and projects. Signed Frank Clasp

Q And also this is a statement by you ?

A Yes, that I witnessed his signature. He was not, in other words, available to be here

COMMITTEE State of Mississippi, Adams County, John Dawsey Due, Jr. being first duly sworn disposes and says that he is an attorney and a member of the Florida Bar and is admitted to the practice before the United States District Court. That he witnessed the signature of Mr. Frank Clasp on the statement herein attached to this affidavit on May the 4th, 1964. That he presently resides at 401 Simpson Terrace, Atlanta, Goergia. That he witnessed the ~~signuate~~ SIGNATURE of Mr. Frank Clasp on the statement herein attached to this affidavit on May the 4th, 1964. Signed John D. Due

DUE I also have the complete affidavit which is notarized by Mr. Curtis Conway Bryant who is also a resident of McComb, County of Pike, State of Mississippi. I would like to submit this to the chairman.

COM. Since this is quite long, do you have another statement you want to make while I look at this ?

DUE I also have a picture of a Negro cafe which was bombed by unknown persons. But it is also within the general area of the southwest Mississippi. This is in the town of Bude.

COM Well, I'll take this as it comes in Mr. Due and read this affidavit. State of Mississippi, County of Pike, Curtis Conway Bryant being first duly sworn disposes, says and affirms that he

resides at Vernul (?) Extension, Box 333B, McComb Street, City of McComb, County of Pike, STate of Mississippi. That he is the president of the Pike County Branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People; that he has been conducting voter registration classes and that on April the 8th or 9th brought three Negro citizens to the courthouse in Magnolia, Mississippi for them to attempt to register to vote, that he has filed affidavits with the President's Committee on Equal Job Opportunities on January the 13th, 1964 about discrimination with respect to race about job opportunities and promotion, that he in the month of February or March a postal inspector R. C. Hansbee, as a result of the above affidavits did investigate the above claims of discrimination at the Illinois Central Railroad shops in McComb. That a cross was burned in front of his home on ~~January~~ January the 5th, 1964. That during the month of March, 1964 his wife, Emma Jean Goodman Bryant, received phone calls saying that they should get out of town, that on April the 28th, 1964 between 8 and 9 PM the affiant was sitting in his bedroom and heard a loud noise, the affiant ran to both the front door and the backdoor and saw no one. He returned to his bedroom at that time neighborhood children came to the front door and told him that his barbershop was on fire. The affiant was able to stop the fire. That on April the 28th, 1964 after he put out the fire he called the Police Department and reported the above incident. The night chief and four other officers came and made an investigation and found a piece of pipe which they promised to give to an expert for a fingerprint examination. That on April the 28th 64 after the police had made their ~~investigation~~ investigation, the affiant reported the incident to attorney Robert Owens of the United States Justice Department and was promised that there would be an investigation. The next day while the affiant was on his job at the Illinois Central

Railroad FBI agents, including one from Natchez, Mississippi, questioned the affiant in relation to the above incident, that during the month of March friends of the affiant brought to him pamphlets and bills about a Ku Klux Klan reorganization that they had found in their yard. That during the week of February the 3rd, 1964 there was a picture posted on the property of the Illinois Central Railroad, said picttre showed a person with a rope around his neck and the words at the top NAACP Don't Let This Happen To You. That on April the 29th his son, Curtis Bryant, Jr., received a phone call from an unknown person who said You son of a bitches better get out of town. This is Curtis Conway Bryant.

COM This is an exhibit of, concerning a bombing at Bude. Negro Firm Hit by Pre-dawn Explosion, that's the caption. This appeared in the Clarion-Ledger [Jackson, Miss.] April the 5th, 1964. We'll just accept this.

DUE I have another statement in my own handwriting by Mrs. Laura O. Quinn of Centreville, Mississippi and she doesn't mind that this be given to this committee. May I read it or submit it.

[reads it] My name is Laura O. Quinn and I reside in Centreville, Mississippi and receive mail at the above address, box 593. I am 94 years old and I have knowledge of what this statement is and that it may be used by the United States Civil Rights Commission and the United States Justice Department. I have a grandson by the name of Mr. Clarence O. Quinn who lived at one time with his mother, Mrs. Ida O. Quinn in the red house next to the one I live in. Mrs. Ida O. Quinn at the present time is in Florida on a visit and to take care of personal business. About the first of April of this year, 1964, my son [DUE: The way she refers that's her grandson, but she calls her grandson her son] was on the United States Post Office steps when the Police Chief Bill Ivory walked up to my son, hit him, striking him about the face and saying you're acting so big as if you own the

town, or something like that. The Police Chief did these acts without any cause by my son. Before the above incidents happened my grandson Clarence Quinn had come to be with his mother Mrs. Ida O. Quinn after his father was killed with his face shot away with bird and buckshot by two men at night while he was driving into the gate of his home over six years ago. His father's name was Samuel O. Quinn. After my grandson Clarence O. Quinn was hit by the Police Chief he came home and after he told me what happened I told him his life was worth living, that here he had no privileges and I advised him to pack up his things and go to his sisters in Florida and don't come back.

Q Do you know whether he has left ?

A Yes, he's gone

DUE That statement is also not notarized because of the same reasons I gave before, but I have an affidavit that I witnessed the signature. This is a statement by Mr. Lucius Woodard who lives in the County of Amite, Liberty, Mississippi. Do you want me to read this ? [reading] Lucius Woodard being first duly sworn disposes and sayd

1. That he resides at Route 5, Box 107A, in the City of Liberty, County of Amite, State of Mississippi.

2. Have been employed as a mechanic at the Harvey Motor Company in Liberty, Mississippi, Amite County

3. The affiants employer was the manager-partner of the above business, whose name was J. T. Walsh.

4. That The affiant has been working at the above place of business ten years.

5. That on April the 19th, 1964, the above Mr. J. T. Walsh came by the affiant's house, Mr. Woodard, early Sunday morning and said I can't use you anymore; it ain't nothing you done; you ought to know why; I can't tell you any more.

6. The way he said it made me ~~think~~ believe that he was scared to tell me more and that he was a member of some gang, either the KKK or the WCC. When I returned Monday to pick up my tools he said the same things in the above tone of voice.

7. The affiant knows that six persons, other than himself, have been fired under the same circumstances as himself, all of them skilled jobs in the town of Liberty.

DUE Mr. Chairman, I have some names here which I do not want to disclose for this open hearing at the present time.. Mr. Chairman, I also have the affidavit of Mr. Willie Thompson but since he's already testified, it's going into the same, it's the same thing he testified to

COM I think it would be well to leave it

DUE and Mr. Chairman I have other affidavits which I intend to include in the closed session. Thank you

COM Any questions? All right, thank you very much

ROBERT MOSES My name is Robert Moses and I'm working on voter registration with the Council of Federated Organizations and the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee [Moses is state program director for COFO] and we requested that the Advisory Committee hold a hearing in Natchez because we were particularly concerned with accounts of acts of terror which we had received and been unable to really fully investigate or do anything about. We believe that five Negroes have been killed in this area since the beginning of the year and since I guess December of last year. One killing was the killing of Louis Allen who was killed just outside of Liberty in Amite County; I went to his house the day after he was killed, there has been no indictment and there's been no arrests. Our belief is that the killing was done by a white person and that in effect he was shot as he was coming home getting out of his pick up

truck. In connection with that I would like to lodge a compalint against the Feberal Bureau of Investigation. On Sunday, the killing was on Friday, on Sunday I talked with three FBI agents who were in the area. I assume that they were there doing an investigation of the killing. However they had yet to talk to Mr. Allen's wife or to any of his children, instead they had talked to the sheriff of the county and to Negroes whom the sheriff had asked them to talk to. It seemed to me that the time factor was crucial; the body was buried on Monday, WHICH WAS just two days after the killing and there is a question, they were there to determine as I understand it from the Department of Justice whether there was grounds for an investigation. Now ~~certainly~~ certainly if there were grounds for an investigation then they should have had access to the body before it was buried and to get pictures and so forth. Now I don't know if they actually did get pictures or not but my understanding was that if it was Sunday afternoon before they even talked to Mrs. Allen that it's probably that they didn't. I would like to request that the United States Civil Rights Commission request the Department of Justice to make a special investigation into the whole area with special agents from the Department of Justice. In light of the affidavits which have been presented, in the light of Mr. Louis Allen's killing, in the light of the reported killing of three Negroes in Wilkinson County just outside of Woodville, and another Negro also in Wilkinson County all of which have been mystery killings, there have been no indictments, there have been no arrests, killings as far as we can understand follow the same pattern, people have been shot at night on the road and their bodies found that night or the next morning. The latest killing ~~as we understand~~ the man's face as we understand it was blown off and he was ~~not~~ identifiable only by papers in his pocket. It seems

to me that to get at the bottom of all the activity in this area that it will require very strong investigation by people from outside the state of Mississippi. And we would like to officially request that the United States Civil Rights Commission, request this of the Department of Justice. We would also like to request that the United States Civil Rights Commisssion request of the Department of Justice for the coming summer, special agents who will be in this state to protect the rights of the people who will be coming down to work in the program which the Council of Federated Organizations is sponsoring for the summer. And I would like for the record to say something about that program if it's permissible. One of the problems in the State of Mississippi is that it's difficult to get accurate information across both to Negroes and whites and there has been a lot of inaccurate information about the summer program. We expect to be coming into the State of Mississippi upwards of 6 to 700 college students from universities and colleges around the country, there will be, in addition to them there will be lawyers who will be coming in; there will be ministers from denominations from all over the country, and there will be entertainers and folksingers. The purpose of the program this summer is to begin to bring to the Negro community in the state some of the resources which this country has to offer in terms of uplifting and giving services to people who are poor and desparately in need of help in many ways. We also intend to begin to draw out of the Negro community the resources which are found there and which have to be drawn out [redacted] to help themselves and to be able to throw off what we think is a very tight political system of oppression in the state. And we would like to guarantee at least for the workers that they will be able to work in the freedom schools without harassment by police or by local citizens, that they will be able to work in the community

centers without that kind of harassment and that the United States Department of Justice will Guarantee the rights of people to work on voter registration in every county in the state. It seems to me until that guarantee is made good and until it's possible to work in counties like Adams County, and Amite and Wilkinson and Pike Counties free of any threats of physical harm or economic reprisals that it's not going to be possible to bring about any real democracy in the State of Mississippi.

Q Mr. Moses, do you feel that law and order has broken down in this area ?

A It seems to me that what's happened in this area is that individual citizens, as far as we can determine white citizens, have taken it upon themselves to set up their own standards or law and order. And this includes attacking Negroes who get out of line, and it seems to us as far as we can determine that they think that the Federal Government of the United States is now an illegal institution and the laws that it passes should not be obeyed and so that they have their own particular responsibility to enforce the laws of the State of Mississippi as they see them. And that the killings which we've heard of and the cross burnings and the whippings of people are in line with this and it seems that at least, at a very minimum, the officials of this state from the governor and the legislature the judges and the policemen are guilty of winking at the activity. Whether they are involved in the activity at all or support of covertly certainly we don't know but it seems that at a very minimum the activity is going on all around them with no real action being taken about it.

Q Any questions, OK.

END

This COFO report represents a tremendous outlay of our meager resources. We need financial help immediately. If the response is substantial, we then will be able to continue our production of similar studies. A major purpose of this report is to obtain public awareness of exactly what is happening in our state. Could you please have this report duplicated and help get publicity for its contents. Substantial change in Mississippi cannot come until the rest of the country commits itself.

THE MISSISSIPPI LEGISLATURE - 1964

COFO
1017 Lynch St.

Jackson, Miss.
June 2, 1964

This report concerns the composition and activities of the Mississippi Legislature in 1964. The report seemed necessary because of the large number of anti-civil rights bills and other bills of a racial character dealt with by the 1964 Legislative Session.

The body of the report lists and explains the key bills introduced and passed in this session. Only the most important sections of the bills are quoted in full; other portions are explained in the text. Where relevant, selections from floor debate are given, as well as biographical notes on legislators associated with specific measures. These note make clear the racial aspects of the legislation.

Please note that only those bills starred with an asterisk have actuall been signed into law, as of June 2, 1964. Several other bills which have been passed in either or in both houses will probably become law before adjournment of the current session, expected in late June or early July.

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INTRODUCTION

Nowhere is the corruption and hypocrisy of Mississippi's white community more apparent than in the composition and activity of the State Legislature. In the past few months, spurred on by the success of civil rights work in the state and by COFO's plans for the coming summer, the Legislature has worked feverishly to produce legislation restricting civil rights and liberties for those who would change the Mississippi 'way of life'.

Lawmakers in floor debate have constantly talked of the coming 'invasion' of the state, and their attitude has helped to create near hysteria in sections of the white community. The Ku Klux Klan and other white vigilante groups have revived, and citizens are being advised to arm to meet the pending crisis.

The Legislature has done its own share to make of Mississippi an armed and authoritarian state. Two hundred men have been added to the Highway Patrol and the Governor has been given the power to order the Patrol into local racial 'emergencies', even if local authorities do not request his aid. The state penitentiary has also been opened for the use of municipal and county police. Picketing of public facilities, organizing boycotts, and leafleting have been made illegal; and bills have been introduced to outlaw COFO's Freedom Schools, Community Centers, and libraries.

All this has been done in the name of meeting the 'crisis' to Mississippi presented by civil rights activities. The legislators seem genuinally frightened that civil rights successes are undermining the racist power structure of the state.

Their fear is understandable given the composition of the Mississippi Legislature. Even more than in most states, the legislature of Mississippi is an elitist group, representing the dominant political and economic powers of the state, pledged to white supremacy and the one-party system.

In 1956, the Legislature created the State Sovereignty Commission, an executive body which plans the state's battle against civil rights. This year, in addition to regular budget allotments, the Legislature voted the Sovereignty Commission $50,000 in tax money to fight the Civil Rights Bill.

The racism of the Mississippi legislators also shows up through their involvement with the White Citizens Councils, the semi-official watchdogs of segregation in the state. Known Citizens Council members hold key positions in both houses of the Legislature. But even those who are not known as members usually have close ties to Council members and share the same views.

The connections of some members of the Legislature with the Citizens Councils and the State Sovereignty Commission are documented below:

(1) The President of the Senate is automatically a member of the Sovereignty Commission. In addition, Sen. Herman DeCell and Sen. Earl Evans were appointed to the 1960-64 Commission, (Evans has since been replaced).

(2) At least 10 of the 53 members of the Senate are members of the Citizens Councils. Sen. James Edgar Lee is President of the Citizens Council of Jefferson Davis County. Sen. George Yarbrough of Red Banks, President Pro Tempore of the Senate, is listed as a Citizens Council member in the Mississippi Legislatuve Handbook and is on the present State Executive Committee of the Citizens Councils.

(3) Citizens Council and Sovereignty Commission members sit as both Chairman and Vice-chairman on the Constitution and the Oil and Gas Committees of the Senate. They also hold Chairmanships of the Transportation, County Affairs, Claims, Temperence, (Mississippi is a dry state with an open bootleg market), Contingent Expense, and Interstate- and Federal Cooperation Committees.

Sen. Yarbrough, who heads the last two committees, is also Vice-chairman of the powerful Rules Committee. Other Citizens Council or Sovereignty Commission members are Vice-chairman of Fees and Salaries, Finance, Forestry, and Corporations Committees.

(4) The Speaker of the House, (presently Rep. Walter Sillers), is automatically a member of the State Sovereignty Commission. Rep. W. H. Johnson, Jr. and Rep. Wilber Hooker have both been appointed to the 1960-64 Commission. Both are also members of the State Executive Committee of the Citizens Council.

(5) In the House, known Citizens Council members number 19 out of 122. Two of these, Rep. Hooker and Rep. Fred Jones of Sunflower County were members of the State Executive Committee of the Citizens Council in 1956. In addition to Hooker and W. H. Johnson, Jr., Rep. Horace Harned of Starkville is also on the present Executive Committee.

Rep. Charles Blackwell of Laurel is past president of the Oxford Citizens Council. Walter Sillers, Speaker of the House, was Master of Ceremonies at a recent Boliver County Citizens Council meeting.

(6) Citizens Council and Sovereignty Commission members are both Chairman and Vice-chairman on the Labor, County Affairs, and Insurance Committees of the House. They also chair the Constitution, Federal Relations, Public Utilities, Corporations, Levees, Conservation, University and Colleges, and Census and Apportionment Committees. They are Vice-chairman on the Insurance, Penitentiary, and Education Committees of the House and on the Joint House-Senate Library Committee.

The significance of the role of Citizens Council members in the Legislature is clear from the 5-Point Action Program of the Citizens Councils:

> (1) Prevent Race Mixing. Racial integrity is essential to civilization and liberty....
>
> (2) Avoid Violence. Experience has proved that where integration occurs, violence becomes inevitable.
>
> (3) Maintain and Restore Legal Segregation....
>
> (4) Defend States' Rights. The states are the sources of all governmental power, local and Federal....
>
> (5) Reverse the "Black Monday" Decision. The Supreme Court's school integration decision of May 17, 1954 is a patent perversion of the Constitution, based on false "science." If it stands, social segregation and laws against racial intermarriage will be subject to judicial condemnation. Such a prospect is intolerable!

Such are the views of the President Pro Tempore of the Senate, the Speaker of the House, and other key figures in the Mississippi Legislature. With such a background, it is not surprising that the 1964 Session has had an anti-civil rights and civil liberties orientation.

Many of the laws dealt with in this report are clearly unconstitutional. But Mississippi's legislators, most of whom are opposed to the decisions of the "Warren Court", have little concern for the ultimate constitutionality of their legislative activities. They are concerned instead with providing the state with emergency powe to combat civil rights within the next few months.

Because of this, the 1964 Legislative Session has often seemed like an episode out of Alice in Wonderland. The legislature has even violated the very principles which the state's representative claim to uphold on the national level. In Congress, Mississippi's representatives have consistently attacked the Civil Rights Bill as a violation of States' Rights and have deplored the use of Federal troops in racial crises. But at the same time, the Mississippi Legislature has centralized control of the Highway Patrol and the Penitentiary under the Governor and given him the power to use the Patrol to intervene in local affairs.

No matter how otherworldly the Mississippi Legislature may seem, however, it cannot be taken lightly. The final effect of the laws proposed and passed in the Legislature this session would be to turn Mississippi into a totalitarian state, for white and black alike. As AFL-CIO Labor Council President Claude Ramsey has already warned, "legislation enacted by the Mississippi Legislature 'under the guise of 'segregation maneuvers' could, in reality, be used against the labor movement...." (Jackson Daily News, May 25, 1964) It must be remembered, in reading through the following pages, tha preservation of "Racial Integrity" has been the traditional excuse by which Southern white politicians have maintained the Closed Society, in which all whites as well as all Negroes must suffer fr fear and loss of freedom.

1. ANTI-ECONOMIC BOYCOTT BILL

Senate Bill No. 1607 (Still in Committee)

This bill is aimed at outlawing economic boycotts by Negroes against white businesses which discriminate.

> AN ACT MAKING IT UNLAWFUL TO THREATEN OR ATTEMPT TO INTIMIDATE, HARASS, OBSTRUCT OR IMPEDE ANOTHER PERSON BY FORCE, ABUSE OR OTHERWISE, FROM LAWFULLY TRADING OR CARRYING ON BUSINESS; PROVIDING THE PENALTY THEREFOR UPON CONVICTION; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.
>
> SECTION 1. If any person or persons, by threats, force, abuse or otherwise attempts to intimidate, harass, obstruct or impede any person or persons for the purpose of and with wilful intent to prvent such person or persons from buying from, selling to or trading with another person who is engaged in a lawful business or trade, he shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and on conviction, shall be punished by imprisonment in the county jail not less than one month nor more than six (6) months, and by fine not exceeding Five Hundred Dollars ($500.00).

This bill and the one following are among the most vicious dealt with by the 1964 Legislature. The effect of the two bills is to make it impossible to organize economic boycotts by Negroes against those white establishments which refuse equal services and employment to Negroes. Successful boycotts of white business areas have been organized in Canton, Jackson, and elsewhere, despite anti-boycott ordinances in these cities. Now, the state legislature is attempting to enforce these unconstitutional provisions over the entire state.

The bills are vicious because they put a final cap on the economic and political subordination of Mississippi's Negroes. The white power structure of the state argues that the rights of personal property and personal choice are the basis of American democracy and more important than equal rights for all citizens. But when Negroes attempt to exercise choice as to where they spend their money, they are forbidden to do so by the white community. Negroes are paid very little for their work in Mississippi, but the white commurity insists that what little money the Negro community does have flow as much as possible back to the white man.

It is not surprising, therefore, that the only Senator who was listed as a as a sponsor of both bills was Sen. Edwards C. Henry, a Past President and member of the Board of Directors of the Canton Chamber of Commerce and Vice-president of the First Federal Savings and Loan Association of Canton. Sen. Henry is Chairman of the Oil and Gas Committee of the Senate, and Vice-chairman of the Constitution Committee. He is listed in the official Handbook of the Legislature as a member of the Citizens Council.

2. ANTI-LEAFLETING LAW

* Senate Bill No. 1545 (Passed and Signed)

This bill prohibits distributing leaflets calling for economic boycotts.

AN ACT MAKING IT UNLAWFUL TO PRINT OR CIRCULATE ANY MATTER FOR THE PURPOSE OF IMPAIRING, INTERFERING WITH, OR PREVENTING ANOTHER PERSON FROM EXERCISING A LAWFUL TRADE OR CALLING, PROVIDING A PENALTY THEREFOR ON CONVICTION, AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

If any person shall wilfully and maliciously print, circulate or distribute, cause to be printed, circulated or distributed, or assist in printing, circulating or distributing, in any form whatever, any matter, the purpose and design of the contents thereof being to wilfully and maliciously interfere with, or prevent another from exercising a lawful trade or calling, or engaging in a lawful business, or engaging in lawful use and enjoyment of his property, he shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and upon conviction thereof shall be punished by imprisonment for not more than six (6) months in the county jail or be fined not more than Five Hundred Dollars ($500.00), or both.

The right to distribute leaflets has been upheld in several cases by the United States Supreme Court, most notably in the 1938 decision in Lovell v. Griffin, 303 U.S. 444. Distribution of leaflets has been recognized as one of the activities protected by the First Amendment's guarantees of freedom of speech and of the press. Nonetheless, arrest on anti-leafleting and anti-littering charges have been among the most common in Mississippi. In a state where Negroes have almost no access to influence through radio, television, or the newspapers, handbills and flyers are an important form of communication and a valuable tool in civil rights work.

3. ANTI-PICKETING LAW

* House Bill No. 546. (Passed and signed)

A bill prohibiting picketing of public buildings. (For further information see special COFO report on the Anti-picketing Law).

AN ACT TO PROHIBIT THE UNLAWFUL PICKETING OF STATE BUILDINGS, COURTHOUSES, PUBLIC STREETS, AND SIDEWALKS.

SECTION 1. It shall be unlawful for any person, singly or in concert with others, to engage in picketing or mass demonstrations in such a manner as to obstruct or interfere with free ingress or egress to and from any public premise, State property, county or municipal courthouses, city halls, office buildings, jails, or other public buildings or property owned by the State of Mississippi or any county or municipal government located therein or with the transaction of public busi-

ness or administration of justice therein or thereon conducted or so as to obstruct or interfere with free use of public streets, sidewalks or other public ways adjacent or contiguous thereto.

This law carries a misdemeanor charge, with provision for $500 fine, 6 months in jail, or both fine and imprisonment.

This bill was originally introduced by Rep. Rex Jones of Forrest County (Hattiesburg), and by lawmakers from Madison County (Canton) and Hinds County (Jackson). All three areas have recently been the scene of demonstrations and picketing. In floor debate, the bill was described as an "emergency bill for Greenwood". The day after the bill was signed, 52 people were arrested under its provisions at a Greenwood Freedom Day. The following day, 55 were arrested for picketing at the Forrest County Courthouse in Hattiesburg.

The bill is a clear violation of the 1st Amendment. Mrs. Victoria Jackson Gray and Rev. John E. Cameron, Negro candidates for national office from Mississippi, have filed suit against the Governor and other state and county officials to restrain them from applying the anti-picketing law. Mrs. Gray, of Hattiesburg, is a candidate for the Senate. Rev. Cameron, candidate for the House of Representatives from Hattiesburg, was one of those arrested at the Forrest County Courthouse.

4. 'SECOND' ANTI-PICKETING LAW

(Passed in House, sent to Senate)

An almost identical law to be used if the above law is declared unconstitutional.

According to the Jackson Clarion-Ledger, April 13, 1964: "The House, on April 12, gave unanimous approval to a second bill aimed at preventing mass picketing of public buildings....

"The measure was almost identical to one passed earlier by both chambers and signed into law by Gov. Paul Johnson a few weeks ago. The only change was insertion of the word 'unreasonably' in the new proposal.

"A case is now pending in federal court which challenges the earlier law in connection with the arrest of several racial demonstrators at Hattiesburg, scene of a Negro voter registration drive.

"The new bill apparently was drawn up in the event the measure enacted previously was thrown out by the courts."

SIX BILLS INCREASING POLICE POWERS

5. BILL AUTHORIZING SPECIAL DEPUTY SHERIFFS IN ALL COUNTIES

House Bill No. 246 (Still in County Affairs Committee)

A bill to allow unlimited deputy sheriffs "to cope with emergencies".

This bill would provide that the sheriff of any county is authorized to appoint special deputy sheriffs in addition to regular, full-time deputies, "to cope with emergencies in matters of general law enforcement which may exist of come about in any county to an extent that the sheriff's office is in need of additional deputies....", and in case of floods, etc.

6. BILL TO "RESTRAIN MOVEMENTS OF INDIVIDUALS UNDER CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES" --- THE CURFEW LAW

* House Bill No. 64 (Passed in both Houses and signed)

This bill would allow police to restrict freedom of movement of individuals or groups and to establish curfews without formally declaring martial law.

> AN ACT TO...PROVIDE THAT MUNICIPALITIES MAY ENFORCE NEEDFUL POLICE REGULATIONS TO RESTRAIN MOVEMENTS OF INDIVIDUALS UNDER CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

Section 1 provides for quarantine of individuals with infectious diseases.

> SECTION 2. The governing authorities of municipalities shall have the further power to make additional regulations to protect property, health and lives and to enhance the general welfare of the community by restricting the movements of the citizens, or any group thereof, of such municipalities when there is eminent danger to the public safety because of freedom of movement thereof.

Among other restrictions, the bill would permit establishment of a curfew --- which U.S. courts have held unconstitutional for adults.

The bill was introduced by Rep. Irby Turner, Humphreys County, member of the Citizens Council.

7. BILL "TO PROVIDE FOR APPOINTMENT OF SECURITY AND PATROL PERSONNEL FOR STATE INSTITUTIONS"

House Bill No. 617 (Passed in House and sent to Senate)

This bill provides for "security patrol officers" to be appointed at all State institutions. Appointments would be made by the Commissioner of Public Safety.

SECTION 2. To the end that order and decorum shall be preserved at all State institutions, buildings and grounds, sufficient personnel shall be appointed as security patrol officers, as needed, at all State institutions, buildings and grounds, who shall have general police power and whose duty it shall be to enforce upon such ground, as well as any rules or regulations with respect to such institutions, buildings or grounds.

Such personnel shall be selected and trained by the Commissioner of Public Safety and shall be assigned to their duties at the various State institutions, buildings and grounds by the Commissioner of Public Safety, with the approval of the governing authority of the particular State institution, building or grounds, and when so assigned such personnel shall be for all purposes considered the employees of the governing authority of the particular State institution, building or grounds to which assigned.

It should be noted that the Commissioner of Public Safety is responsible only to the Governor, and that security at state institutions would therefore be brought more or less directly under executive control. Several Negro State colleges would come under this act. Since the present Commissioner of Public Safety, T. B. Birdsong, was a key figure in the Meredith - Ole Miss crisis and ordered the Highway Patrol onto the Ole Miss campus at that time without authority under the laws of the state, it is certain that he would not show much restraint in using personal appointees in incidents involving Negro campuses.

8. BILL TO AUTHORIZE A COMPLETE RADIO STATION FOR POLICE IN ANY COUNTY

House Bill No. 101 (Passed in both Houses)

AN ACT TO AUTHORIZE THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF ANY COUNTY, IN ITS DISCRETION, TO PURCHASE THE NECESSARY EQUIPMENT TO ESTABLISH A COMPLETE RADIO STATION AND TO MAINTAIN SAME, TO AUTHORIZE THE SHERIFFS OF SAID COUNTIES TO OPERATE SAME FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT PURPOSES, TO PROVIDE FOR THEIR UPKEEP AND MAINTENANCE; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

SECTION 2. Any purchase that may be made or any obligation incurred under the provisions of this act shall be legal, irrespective of any limitations contained in the budget laws of the State of Mississippi governing the county budget for the fiscal year 1963-64.

Once again, this bill provides emergency authorization for measures useful to coordinate anti-civil rights 'law enforcement'.

9. THE "MUNICIPAL AGREEMENT" ACT -

* Senate Bill No. 1526 (Passed by both Houses and signed)

A bill to allow municipalities to share police forces and firefighting equipment during "riots and civil disturbances".

> AN ACT...TO PROVIDE THAT MUNICIPALITIES MAY ENTER INTO AGREEMENTS WITH ONE ANOTHER AND ASSIGN PERSONNEL, EQUIPMENT, SUPPLIES AND MATERIALS FOR THE PURPOSES OF COMBATTING FIRES, NATURAL AND ENEMY DISASTERS, AND PREVENTION AND ALLEVIATION OF RIOTS AND CIVIL DISTURBANCES; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.
>
> SECTION 1....FIRE DEPARTMENTS AUTHORIZED TO GO OUTSIDE CITY LIMITS.
>
> That the fire departments, including the apparatus and all vehicles of such departments, be and are hereby authorized to use the roads, highways, streets and alleys outside the corporate limits of such municipalities owning and operating such fire fighting and fire prevention equipment, for the purpose of aiding in the extinguishing and prevention of fires or damages or injuries caused by tornadoes or other casualties in locations outside the corporate limits of such municipalities or in other villages, towns, or cities within the State of Mississippi....
>
> The governing authorities of municipalities may enter into mutual assistance pacts or agreements with other municipalities in the assignment of personnel, equipment, supplies and material for the purposes of combatting fires, natural and enemy disasters, and the prevention and alleviation of riots or civil disturbances of the peace and tranquility within such municipalities. This act is liberally construed to effect the purposes thereof.

The use of fire hoses to fight civil rights demonstrations, one of the most brutal police tactics in such circumstances, leaves little doubt as to the intention behind this act.

10. THE "REFUSAL TO COMPLY WITH CERTAIN REQUESTS" BILL

House Bill No. 777 (Passed in both Houses)

A bill to outlaw passive resistance in civil rights demonstrations.

> SECTION 1. Whoever, with intent to provoke a breach of the peace, or under such circumstances as may lead to a breach of the peace, or which may cause or occasion a breach of the peace, fails or refuses to comply with or obey a request, command or order of a law enforcement officer having the authority to then and there arrest any person for a violation of the law, to promptly....

(2) Arise if lying or sitting down and move to a point designated by said officer outside the immediate area affected by the occurences at the place of issuing such order, command or request or

(4) Refrain from obstructing, with his body or any part thereof, or in any manner, the lawful movement or passage of any vehicle, or

(6) Refrain from chaining or tying or binding himself or another to any object or person, or

(7) Unbind, unchain or loosen himself or remove himself from any chain or other means whereby he may be prevented from moving away from the immediate vicinity where he may be when such officer issues said order, request or command, or

(8) Walk or move to, enter and remain, as may be directed by such officer, any police or other vehicle operated by any law enforcement officer or department, or any other vehicle designated by such an officer, or

(9) Act or do or refrain from acting or doing as ordered, requested or commanded by said officer to avoid any breach of the peace at or near the place of issuance of such order, request or command,*

shall be guilty of disorderly conduct, which is made a misdemeanor and upon conviction thereof, such person or persons shall be punished by a fine of not more than F ive Hundred Dollars ($500.00) or imprisonment in the county jail for not more than six (6) months, or both such fine and imprisonment.

SECTION 3. In the event any person violates Section 1 or Section 2 hereof, supra, or both, and if such conduct shall lead to, or shall cause or shall result in, a breach of the peace or incite a riot and as a result of said breach of the peace or riot another person or persons be maimed, killed or injured, then the person or persons guilty of violating Section 1 or 2, or both Sections 1 and 2, supra, shall be guilty of a felony and upon conviction thereof, such person or persons shall be imprisoned in the State penitentiary not longer than Five (5) years or be fined not more than Two Thousand Dollars ($2,000,00) or by both such fine and imprisonment. * emphasis added

Under Section 3, if police in breaking up a demonstration caused injuries, as is often the case, the demonstrators themselves could be xxxxxx charged with responsibility for the injuries and convicted of a felony.

One of the authors of this bill was Rep. Irby Turner of Humphreys, a Citizen Council member. The other author, Rep. Thompson McClellan of Clay county called the bill up from 47th place on the calendar of the House, describing it as "an emergency bill". According to the Jackson Clarion-Ledger, (April 14, 1964): "While it was not said on the floor of the House, it was obvious that the bill is directed at halting threats of racial trouble."

11. THE HIGHWAY PATROL ACT

* House Bill 564 (Passed in both Houses and signed)

Known as the "Mississippi Law Enforcement Officers' Training Academy Act of 1964", HB 564 is an omnibus bill enlarging the Mississippi Highway Patrol and expanding its powers. Under this act, the Highway Patrol will be expanded from 275 to 475 men. A police-training academy will also be established in the vicinity of Jacskon.

Most controversial among the bill's provisions is Section 10, which would allow the Governor to give the Patrol full police powers during racial 'emergencies', and permit him to order the Patrol into local situations, even if local authorities did not request his aid.

Section 2 explains that the purpose of the act is "insuring the domestic tranquility; and that the accomplishment of the things herein authorized will preserve the present and prospective safety, morals, pursuit of happiness and general welfare* of citizens of the State of Mississippi." *emphasis added

Section 5 provides that the sheriff of each county and the mayor of each city may appoint as many extra deputy sheriffs or extra deputy police respectively as he deems necessary. The deputies are subject to approval by the Commissioner of Public Safety, (the Highway Patrol is directly under the Commissioner of Public Safety), who can admit them to the police academy for training. When called upon by the sheriffs or mayors, the deputies will have powers equivalent to regular police officers of the state.

Section 10 amends Section 8082 of the Mississippi Code, concerning powers and duties of the Highway Safety Patrol. Until now, the Patrol had been limited to Traffic Control. Under Article 9 of Section 10 of the new law, "all officers of the Department of Public Safety charged with the enforcement of the laws administered by that agency shall have full power to investigate, prevent, apprehend and arrest law violators anywhere in the State, and shall be vested with the power of general police officers in the performance of their duties."

These increased powers can be used only on proclamation of the Governor or Acting Governor under the following circumstances:

> (a) When requested by the sheriff or board of supervisors of any county or the mayor of any municipality on the grounds that crimes of violence, acts and conduct, or either, calculated to or which may provoke violence or incite riots, mobs, mob violence or lead to any breach of the peace, or either, and acts of intimidation or terror are anticipated, and when such acts or conduct in the opinion of the Governor would provoke violence or any of the foregoing acts or conduct....
>
> (b) Acting upon evidence submitted to him by the Department of Public Safety, or other investigating agency authorized by the Governor or Acting Governor to make such investigations, because of the failure or refusal of the sheriff of any county or mayor of any municipality to take action or employ such means at his disposal* to prevent or suppress the acts, conduct or offenses

provided for in subparagraph (a) of this subsection 9, supra, the Governor or Acting Governor deems it necessary to invoke the powers and authority vested in the Department of Public Safety. *emphasis added

The proclamation of the Governor is effective for 90 days, and can be renewed by additional proclamations.

According to the Jackson Clarion-Ledger, April 3, 1964, the Highway Patrol Bill is "an act recommended by Gov. Paul B. Johnson as a means of maintaining law and order in the face of any emergency that may evolve from racial demonstrations threatened for the coming summer by outside integration forces...." Speaking in Biloxi on April 20, Johnson said he would use the expanded Patrol to insure "that no civil agitators are allowed to drive a wedge of dissension between the people of the state."

Johnson, who has been described as a "perennial foe of state level police powers" and who opposed increased police powers in his 1963 Gubernatorial campaign, apparently feels the emergency to the state to be so great at this time as to cancel out his fears about centralized police authority. Legislators were not so easily convinced. Sen. Jack Tucker of Tunica who attempted to strike out the clause allowing the Governor to act on his own authority in local situations charged that the bill "brings us in direct conflict with our age-old belief that we shall have local self government."

Other Senators were even more violent in their attack on the bill. Howard McDonnell of Biloxi said of the act: "What you are about to do here is create a traveling gestapo. It besmacks of Nazi Germany and Russia." Sen. Tom Williams of Lexington agreed: "If you read the histor of Germany you will see that the people were not afraid of a thing that Hitler did. This is the way people lose their liberties."

Sen. George Yarbrough, President Pro Tempore and Citizens Council member, who steered the bill to passage, answered McDonnell and Williams by saying: "I am sure it will be said in some parts of the country... that Mississippi has itself a gestapo. I think senators do a disservic to the state when they utter things up here about Hitler and other things that should be left unsaid."

Debate on the bill reached a level of hysteria unusual even for the Mississippi Legislature. Mrs. Gordon White, of Lauderdale County, told the House she "had never known conditions to be as grave as they are now." According to the Jackson Clarion-Ledger, April 3, 1964, Rep. Ralph Herrin, of Covington, "arose to tell the House that 'the only thing lacking in this bill is provision for a thousand police dogs to guard law and order day and night.'

"He said that threats by outside forces are to the effect that 26 towns in the state will be invaded this summer by 30,000 integrationists.

"'We have argued about having 475 men on the patrol,' Herrin said, 'but if 26 towns are hit at once, those 475 patrolmen would be spread mighty thin.'"

Fear was expressed that the new Patrol might be used to break up Mississippi's massive, open bootleg liquor industry. It was necessary for legislators to give assurances several times that the emergency powers of the Patrol would not be used for this purpose. Opponents also claimed that the police academy would cost the state $10,000,000 in tax money.

In contrast, Sen. Bill Alexander of Cleveland introduced a bill to reduce the state highway system by 4,000 miles. Though Mississippi desperately needs more and better highways for economic expansion, Alexander's bill noted that the state is financially unable to pay for maintenance and construction of the present system of about 12,600 miles.

It should be noted once again that the Commissioner of Public Safety, T. B. Birdsong, to whom so much power would evolve under the Highway Patrol Act, was one of the key figures in the Meredith - Ole Miss crisis. Floor debate in the Legislature showed that Birdsong used the Patrol at Ole Miss in the manner outlined in the Highway Patrol Act --- though there was no legal authority to do so under the laws of the state at that time. Birdsong also offered the use of the Mississippi Highway Patrol to Alabama at the time of the 1963 Birmingham crisis. Birdsong can therefore be expected to use the Patrol without restraint once emergency powers are granted.

At least 8 of the 34 Representatives who sponsored the Highway Patrol bill are members of the Citizens Council.

12. ANTI-FREEDOM SCHOOL BILL NO. 1

Senate Bill No. 2136 (Still in Judiciary Committee)

This bill makes illegal the Freedom Schools and Community Centers planned by COFO for the coming summer.

AN ACT TO PROVIDE FOR THE FILING OF AFFIDAVITS AND THE SECURING OF LICENSES, PERMITS OR AUTHORITY BY CERTAIN PERSONS TO CONDUCT CLINICS OR SCHOOLS FOR PURPOSES OF GIVING INSTRUCTIONS IN GENERAL EDUCATION, GENERAL HEALTH AND RELATED SUBJECTS; TO PROVIDE CERTAIN LEGAL RELIEF AND PENALTIES, AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

SECTION 1. Unless otherwise provided by law, no person or persons, acting individually or in concert with others, shall call, conduct, convene or hold any public meetings, schools, or clinics, or assist in holding, or attend any such meetings, schools, clinics, including distribution of books, pamphlets and other literature, for the purpose of advising, teaching, instructing or informing any person or group of persons in the fields of general education, including liberal arts and sciences and where the general welfare of citizens are involved and where such duties and responsibilities under laws, rules and regulations are imposed upon the State Board of Education and other educational groups and institutions, or in the fields of general public health, where the health, safety, lives and welfare of citizens are involved and where such duties and responsibilities under laws, rules and regulations, are imposed upon the State

Board of Health or the various county and municipal health departments, without first filing his affidavit with the chancery clerk of the county in which same mey be held. Such affidavit shall be sworn to before the county chancery clerk, on forms approved and submitted by him, and filed of record in his office of such person, the name, address and business of his employer, organization or association, the place, time, purposes and full information as to the class or type of such public meetings, schools, clinics, including the distribution of any such books, pamphlets, or literature.

Any person who fails or refuses to file such affidavit shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction, be punished by a fine of not more than Two Hundred Dollars ($200.00) or imprisoned for not more than sixty (60) days, or both such fine and imprisonment.

Section 2 provides that those participating in general education programs must obtain a license from the State or County Boards of Education or from the County Superintendent of Education, and that failure to do so shall be a misdemeanor. Section 3 provides that those participating in public health programs must obtain a license, permit, or authority from the State,county, or municipal Board of Health, and provides that failure shall be a misdemeanor.

SECTION 4. This act is solely for the purpose of requiring all persons, not otherwise provided by law, to file an affidavit and secure a license, permit or authority before engaging in any work or activity described herein, and is not intended to prohibit any such work or activity. Further, this act is not intended as an amendment to any existing law but is intended to be, and is hereby so declared to be, in addition to, independent of, and supplemental to, all existing laws, rules and regulations.

SECTION 5. It shall be the duty of the Attorney General to proceed by injunction or otherwise to dissolve any operation in violation of the provisions of this act.

SECTION 6. If any section, subsection, clause, phrase or word of this act is held unconstitutional or invalid for any reason, such holding or invalidity, shall not affect the remaining portions of this act.

Note that this bill would require not only organizers and teachers, but also students, to obtain licenses before participating in programs such as will be offered by COFO's Freedom Schools and Community Centers.

The purposes of COFO's Freedom Schools are: (1) To supplement the hopelessly inadequate education provided by the regular school system of Mississippi --- worst in the nation; (2) To teach such courses as Negro history, so that Mississippi's Negro children will understand the honor of their African heritage and the origins of their present condition; and (3) to sponsor adult education classes, citizenship courses, and health clinics. Obviously such a program would never gain the approval Mississippi's racist officials. What these officials fear is the spread of new ideas among 'their' Negroes.

13. ANTI-FREEDOM SCHOOL BILL NO. 2

Senate Bill No. 1969 (Still in Education Committee)

This is an earlier attempt to ban the Freedom Schools.

> AN ACT TO PROVIDE THAT ALL PERSONS, GROUPS OF PERSONS, ASSOCIATIONS AND CORPORATIONS CONDUCTING A SCHOOL WITHIN A COUNTY SHALL SECURE A LICENSE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION THEREOF.
>
> SECTION 1. Any person, groups of persons, associations and corporations conducting a school in any county within this state shall first apply to the county superintendent of education thereof for a license to conduct such school. If after due examination, said county superintendent of education shall determine the said school does not intend to counsel and encourage disobedience to the laws of the State of Mississippi, and that the conduct of said school is in the public interest, he shall forthwith issue a license to the persons, groups of persons, associations or corporations applying for the same.

The bill provides that those conducting a school without a license, including the teachers, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor, punishable by a fine of not less than $100 nor more than $500 and/or confinement in the county jail for not less than 30 days nor more than 6 months.

The bill appears to be stuck in Committee. It was introduced by Sen. Benjamin Franklin Hilbun, Jr., of Starkville, Oktibbeha County. Sen. Hilbun is Chairman of the Universities and Colleges Committee of the Senate, and Vice-chairman of the Appropriations Committee. Sen. Hilbun's father was President Emeritus of the University of Mississippi. He was also the Vice-chairman of Patriotic American Youth (PAY), a belligerantly anti-Communist, right-wing high school and college organization closely associated with the Citizens Councils.

14. A BILL TO RAISE QUALIFICATIONS FOR MEMBERS OF COUNTY BOARDS OF EDUCATION

Senate Bill No. 1702 (Released from Education Committee)

In April a bill was introduced into the Senate Education Committee establishing stiffer qualifications for members of county boards of education. The bill was recommitted to the Education Committee. Among other things, the bill would require board members to be high school graduates. It was sent back to committee when a dozen amendments were offered seeking to exclude certain counties from its provisions. Apparently the Education Committee reported out favorably almost the same bill on a move for substitution, May 19.

15. A BILL TO PERMIT SEGREGATION OF PUBLIC SCHOOLS BY SEXES

(Approved by the House Education Committee)

This bill would allow segregation of public schools by sexes. According to the Jackson Clarion-Ledger of April 15, 1964, the bill would be used in the event schools are forced to integrate racially. "Many lawmakers say privately they feel there would be less danger from integration if white girls were not forced to go to school with Negro boys."

16. BILLS TO ALLOW STATE SUPPORT OF PRIVATE SCHOOLS

(Introduced into the Senate)

This is a series of bills to allow state funds to be used in support of private schools if public schools are closed to avoid integration.

The Mississippi State Constitution already provides for the abolition of public schools if they are ordered to integrate. A suit is presently pending in Federal Court which may result in a court order for schools in Jackson, Biloxi, and Leake County to integrate next fall.

In the last week in which bills could be introduced into the 1964 Legislative Session, a series of bills were introduced into the Senate to allow the state to pay for a massive private school system in the event of integration of public schools. The laws would allow the state to provide funds and textbooks to the schools, as well as scholarships to students.

Despite the Constitutional provision, the goal of those introducing the bills was apparently the continuation of public schools for Negroes and the establishment of private schools for whites. According to Sen. Edwin Pittman of Hattiesburg, one of the sponsors of the bills, the recent court order that Prince Edward County, Virginia, must reopen its public schools would not apply to Mississippi because "we're going to have a public and private system," (Jackson Clarion-Ledger, May 25, 1964).

A qualification was also introduced into the bill providing money for scholarships. The bill said funds would be available only for 'educable' students. Mississippi education authorities maintain that Negroes do not have equivalent learning power with whites.

17. BILL TO REVOKE THE CHARTER OF TOUGALOO COLLEGE

Senate Bill No. 1672 (Still in Judiciary Committee)

This bill to revoke the charter of integrated Tougaloo College was introduced in retaliation for civil rights activities of students and faculty at the school.

Tougaloo is an integrated, predominantly Negro private college a few miles from Jackson. It was originally incorporated in 1871. Recently, students and faculty members from the school have been involved in demonstrations in Jackson and some have been arrested. The Chaplain of the College, Rev. Edward King, a native white Mississippian, ran for Lieutenant Governor in November 1963 on a Freedom Ballot, an unofficial ballot to indicate Negro political interest, together with Mississippi NAACP President Aaron Henry, a Negro.

Action against Tougaloo was touched off by Lt. Gov. Carroll Gartin, presiding officer of the Senate. Gartin, in a speech before the Jackson Civic Club, said that Tougaloo was a haven for "queers, quacks, quirks, political agitators and possibly some Communists." He called for an investigation of the role of the school in civil rights demonstrations. The Senate Judiciary Committee promptly began an investigation.

While the bill was in Committee, Sen. Noel Monaghan of Tupelo read to the Senate a newspaper report of a concert by Joan Baez at the college. The concert was fully integrated, one of the first such cases in recent Jackson history. A large number of white students from colleges in the area attended. Reading the report to the Senate, Monaghan said, "I just think this is news that every Senator should read, know and understand," (Jackson Clarion-Ledger, April 9, 1964).

However, it appears that the bill will die in the Judiciary Committee. Chairman E. K. Collins explained, "we don't feel we have enough evidence to make it stick in court."

The bill was introduced by Sen. Dye of Grenada, Sen. Ross of Pelahatchie and Sen. Yarbrough, President Pro Tempore of the Senate. As noted before, Sen. Yarbrough is on the State Executive Committee of the Citizens Council.

18. BILL TO END ACCREDITATION OF TOUGALOO COLLEGE

Senate Bill No. 2043 (Passed in both Houses)

This bill would change the accreditation system in the state so that Tougaloo could be dropped from accreditation.

Having failed to get action against Tougaloo by the Judiciary Committee, Senators Dye and Yarbrough introduced a bill into the Universities and Colleges Committee that would cost the school its accredited standing. The bill would make state acceptance of accreditation by the Southern Association of Colleges and Universities discretionary. Under present law, all accreditation decisions by the Association must be accepted by the State Commission on College Accreditation.

According to the Jackson Clarion-Ledger, April 21, 1964: "An author of /the/ bill...said it was aimed at withdrawing state accreditation from predominantly-Negro Tougaloo College near Jackson." Loss of accreditation would keep Tougaloo graduates from teaching in state public schools.

19. INVESTIGATION OF UNIVERSITY OF MISSISSIPPI PROFESSOR CRITICAL OF THE STATE

Concurrent resolution introduced in the House

Denial of academic freedom in Mississippi is not limited to Negro educational institutions. White students and faculty members who criticize the state's racial policies also suffer attempts at intimidation.

Most outspoken of Mississippi's educators has been Prof. James Silver, member of the history department of the University of Mississippi for 28 years. In a speech delivered recently in Memphis, and later published, Dr. Silver called Mississippi a "closed society". He also said the state "was trying to maintain a way of life similar to that of before the Civil War."

In retaliation, a move was initiated to have Dr. Silver investigated. According to the Jackson Clarion-Ledger of May 16, 1964:

"Rep. Jim Mathis, Leake, introduced a concurrent resolution calling upon the Board of Trustees of State Institutions of Higher Learning to investigate certain employees of such institutions who are reputed to be and generally believed to be engaged in activities disloyal to their employers and the people of Mississippi, injurious to the academic standards of the institutions, and, in contumavious conduct in violations of Section 213-A of the Mississippi Constitution.

"The lawmaker said that the resolution is directed at Ole Miss Professor James Silver, who, Mathis said, has been actively condemning the state and the school on racial matters.

"'If we can't invoke the provisions of the Constitution against such ativities, we are in a sorry mess,' Mathis said."

Rep. Mathis is Chairman of the Federal Relations Committee of the House, member of the Leake County Chamber of Commerce, President of the East Central Junior College Alumni Association, and a member of the Citizens Council.

The Board of Trustees of State Institutions of Higher Learning actually went Rep. Mathis one better by initiating a move to oust Dr. Silver from his teaching position. A sub-committee of the Board was directed to investigate his activities. The sub-committee has presented two reports to the Board, but so far no action has been taken. However, the investigation is continuing.

20. ANTI-SUMMER PROJECT BILL - TO PROHIBIT ENTRY INTO THE STATE

House Bill No. 870 (Still in Judiciary "A" Committee)

This bill attempts to prohibit entry into the state of volunteers for the Mississippi Summer Project on the grounds that their purpose is "wilfull violation of the laws of the state".

AN ACT TO PROHIBIT ENTRY INTO THE STATE FOR THE PURPOSE OF COMMITTING ACTS IN WILFULL VIOLATION OF THE LAWS OF THIS STATE; ALLOWING INJUNCTION TO ISSUE; AND PROVIDING PENALTY FOR VIOLATION

SECTION 1. It shall be unlawful for any persons, group, or organization to advocate or have as its purpose, aim or objective any change by force, violence, or wilfull violation of any of the laws of the State of Mississippi; or any of its governmental subdivisions.

SECTION 2. Any court of competent jurisdiction may issue an injunction to prevent any such person, group, or organization from entering this State with the purpose of violating the provisions of this act.

SECTION 3. Nothing herein shall be construed to limit or prohibit the advocacy of any change, by peaceful or lawful means, in any law or laws of the State of Mississippi.

The bill provides that violation is a felony, punishable by a fine of not more than $1,000 or by confinement in the penitentiary of not more than 2 years, or by both such fine and imprisonment.

No part of COFO's program has for its purpose the "wilfull violation of the laws of the state'. However, as this report shows, many constitutional activities surrounding civil rights work have been made illegal in Mississippi. Because of this, it is quite possible that an injunction could be obtained from the often racist Mississippi courts under which those coming to work in the Mississippi Summer Project would be prohibited from entering the state.

Sen. John Stennis (D.-Miss.) has also proposed an amendment to the Civil Rights Bill making it a federal offense to travel between states for the purpose of violating the laws of a state. The amendment would make it an offense "for any person to travel or transport material, or to aid and abet any person in traveling or transporting material in interstate commerce with intent and purpose of violating the law of any state....", (Jackson Clarion-Ledger, April 8, 1964).

21.

THE "CRIMINAL SYNDICALISM" BILL

Senate Bill No. 2027 (Passed in Senate, reported out favorably by House Committee)

This bill makes illegal any association which advocates or practices crime or violence. Since many constitutional activities associated with civil rights work are outlawed in Mississippi, it is possible that civil rights groups working in the state would be considered as "advocating crime" under this law.

AN ACT TO DEFINE CRIMINAL SYNDICALISM; TO MAKE UNLAWFUL THE ACT OF CRIMINAL SYNDICALISM; TO PROHIBIT ASSEMBLAGE FOR THE PURPOSE OF CRIMINAL SYNDICALISM....

SECTION 1. Criminal syndicalism as used in this Act is hereby defined to be the doctrine or precept which advocates, teaches or aids and abets the commission of crime, sabotage (which word is hereby defined as meaning wilfull and malicious physical damages or injury to physical property), unlawful acts of violence and force, arson or other unlawful acts or methods of terrorism as a mean of accomplishing or effecting a change in agricultural or industrial ownership or control or in effecting any political or social change or for profit.

Section 2 provides that all activities which might in any way whatsoever be construed as aiding or justifying or deriving from the precept or practice of Criminal Syndicalism are punishable as a felony, with fine of not less than $200 nor more than $1,000, or by imprisonment in the state penitentiary of not less than 1 year nor more than 10 years, or both such fine and imrisonment.

SECTION 3. Whenever two or more persons assemble or consort for the purpose of advocating, encouraging, teaching or suggesting the doctrine of criminal syndicalism as defined in this Act, such assemblage is unlawful, and every person voluntarily participating therein by his presence, aid or instigation is guilty of a felony....

SECTION 4. The owner, lessee, agent, superintendent, janitor, caretaker or other person in charge, or occupant of any place, building, room or rooms or structure who knowingly permits therein any assembly or consort of persons prohibited by the provisions of Section 3 of this Act or who, after notification by authorized public or peace officer that the place or premises or any part thereof, is so used, permits such use to be continued is guilty of a misdemeanor....

This bill was introduced to deal in part with the revival of the Ku Klux Klan and other white extremist groups in the state. However, Sen. Elson Collins, one of the sponsors of the bill, "said the bill would also make civil rights groups 'think twice' before beginning Mississippi campaigns," (Delta Democrat Times, April 12, 1964).

22. BILL TO PROHIBIT THE CAUSING OF CRIME FROM OUTSIDE THE STATE

Senate Bill No. 2026 (Passed in Senate, reported out favorably by House committee)

This bill, like the Criminal Syndicalism bill, could be applied to both white extremists and civil rights workers. Under its provisions, if any Mississippi Summer Project worker were convicted of a civil rights 'crime', the heads of all the sponsoring civil rights groups (SNCC, CORE, SCLC, and NAACP) could be arrested upon entry into the state.

AN ACT TO PROVIDE FOR PUNISHMENT OF A PERSON WHO AT THE TIME OF CAUSING A PERSON TO COMMIT A CRIME WITHIN T E STATE WAS OUTSIDE THE STATE; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

SECTION 1. A person who being out of this state causes, aids, advises or encourages any person to commit a crime or public offense within this state and is afterwards found within this state shall be punished in the same manner as if he had been within this state when he caused, aided, advised or encouraged the commission of such crime or public offense.

23. AN ACT TO PROHIBIT 'ENTICEMENT' OF A CHILD TO VIOLATE THE LAWS AND ORDINANCES OF THE STATE

House Bill No. 786 (Still in Judiciary "A" Committee)

This bill attempts to keep minors from participating in civil rights activities by punishing teachers, parents, and civil rights workers.

AN ACT TO PROHIBIT THE ENTICEMENT OF A CHILD TO VIOLATE THE LAWS AND ORDINANCES OF THE STATE AND ITS POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS, AND PROVIDING THAT A PARENT, GUARDIAN OR TEACHER WHO ENGAGES, CONDONES OR PERMITS SUCH ACTIVITY, SHALL BE AN ACCESSORY AND SHALL BE GUILTY OF CONTRIBUTING TO THE DELINQUENCY OF A MINOR* AND PROVIDING PUNISHMENT THEREFOR.

SECTION 1. Any parent, guardian, or custodian of a child, or any person legally responsible for his care or support or instruction, training or guidance, including classroom teacher or school principal or superintendent, who encourages, aids, abets, condones or otherwise permits* a child subject by law to his or her supervision, training, care or keeping, to violate the laws, rules or ordinances of the State of Mississippi or any political subdivision thereof, to resist or otherwise refuse to obey the lawful and proper instructions of an officer or other duly authorized person, in the performance of his official duties, or in the destruction of private or public property or in organized truancy from school or in unauthorized picketing, parading or other public demonstrations contrary to such laws, ordinances, regulations and other orders, shall be guilty as a principal to that act of such child and shall be guilty of contributing to the deliquency of a minor* and shall be punished by a fine not to exceed Five Hundred Dollars ($500.00) and by imprisonment in jail not to exceed rinety (90) days or both.

SECTION 2. Any person* who shall lead, take, carry away, decoy or entice away any child under the age of eighteen (18) years with intent to encourage such child to violate any of the laws, rules, or ordinances of the State of Mississippi or any of its political subdivisions, or to participate in absenteeism from school, in collusion with others, or to resist or otherwise refuse to obey the lawful orders of an officer, or other duly authorized person, in maintaining law and order on the public thoroughfares, places of business, or to encourage in unlawful picketing, unlawful assembly or other organized activity tending to break down the laws and social mores of society shall be guilty of a felony* and shall, on conviction, be imprisoned in the penitentiary not to exceed five (5) years or fined not more than Five Thousand Dollars ($5,000.00) or both.
*emphasis added

Section 1 of this bill again limits academic freedom, by making school officials responsible legally for the acts of children under their authority. Under this bill, any school official or parent who did not actively try to prevent children from taking part in civil rights activities could be considered to have "condoned or otherwise permitted" such 'unlawful' activities and would be guilty of contributing to the delinquency of a minor.

Section 2 is even more serious. High school students often provide manpower for distributing handbills or for picket lines. Under this law, civil rights workers could be arrested on a felony charge for "enticing a child" to such 'unlawful' activities.

24. BILL PROVIDING FOR COURTS TO TREAT JUVENILES ARRESTED IN CIVIL RIGHTS CASES AS ADULTS

House Bill No. 960 (Passed by House, now in Senate)

This bill removes from Youth Court jurisdiction minors under 21 years of age charged under those laws most often used for arrest of civil rights workers. The bill specifies the actual laws for which Youth Courts will no longer have jurisdiction.

Included are House Bill No. 777 (see page 9 above) and House Bill No. 546 (see page 5 above), as well as laws against breach of the peace, obstructing public highways and sidewalks, disorderly conduct, etc.

The bill also provides that those between 18 and 21 may be placed in the same cells as adult prisoners.

The bill was sponsored by Rep. Edwin Hooker, Lexington, Rep. Irby Turner, Jr., Belzoni, and Rep. Thompson McClellan, West Point. Hooker and Turner are both members of the Citizens Council. McClellan, Chairman of the Judiciary Committee, has been floor manager for many of the worst bills dealt with in this Session.

According to a UPI release, Rep. McClellan noted plans for the Mississippi Summer Project in arguing for the bill and said: "'If we are to stop these things from happening this summer, we have got to have this bill.' His statement drew cries of 'Vote, Vote', and there was no discussion." The bill passed unanimously.

25. APPROPRIATION FOR THE STATE SOVEREIGNTY COMMISSION - $50,000

*Senate Bill No. 1896 (Passed in both Houses and signed)

An emergency $50,000 appropriation to the State Sovereignty Commission, the official watchdog of segregation in Mississippi, to fight the Civil Rights Bill now pending before Congress.

> AN ACT MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR THE PURPOSE OF DEFRAYING THE EXPENSES OF THE STATE SOVEREIGNTY COMMISSION FOR THE BIENNIUM ENDING JUNE 30, 1964.

SECTION 1. In addition to all other appropriations made for such purposes, the sum of Fifty Thousand Dollars ($50,000.00) is hereby appropriated, out of any funds in the State Treasury not otherwise appropriated, for the purpose of defraying the expenses of the State Sovereignty Commission for the beinnium ending June 30, 1964.

The state budget law shall not apply to expenditures made from this appropriation.

SECTION 2. The additional appropriation hereby made is for the purpose of enabling the State Sovereignty Commission to meet unforeseen and unanticipated expenses during the remainder of the current biennium.

The State Sovereignty Commission is an official state agency established in 1956 to plan the state's battle against Civil Rights. It has helped pay for Citizen Council radio and TV programs and has sent memoranda to police officers around the state explaining the laws which can be used to fight civil rights activities.

The new appropriation "was rushed through the Legislature", (Jackson Clarion-Ledger, April 11, 1964), and passed unanimously in the Senate.

According to the papers, the appropriation was earmarked for the Coordinating Committee for Fundamental American Freedoms (CCFAF). The CCFAF is a private lobby in Washington established for the purpose of defeating the Civil Rights Bill. The New York Times says the Committee was set up after a few leading segregationists from the South met with representatives of association and business groups from other parts of the country who were bothered by the economic aspects of the bill.

The CCFAF is headed by John C. Satterfield, a Yazoo City lawyer and a former president of the American Bar Association. Satterfield was a close adviser of Ross Barnett, is a consultant to the Citizens Council, and is a member of the law firm which represents the City of Jackson in civil rights disputes. Another key figure in the CCFAF is Dr. Melchior F. R. Savarese, a local John Birch Society leader in Washington.

The true purpose of this "unforseen and unanticipated" appropriation was therefore to finance further efforts to defeat the Civil Rights Bill pending before Congress. These efforts were described in the Jackson Clarion-Ledger: "Satterfield's group has been waging an all-out battle against the Civil Rights Bill before the U.S. Senate, publishing and distributing numerous pamphlets and other material."

The appropriation bill was introduced by Sen. Bill Burgin of Columbus and Sen. Herman DeCell of Yazoo City. Burgin is Chairman of the Appropriation Committee and Vice-Chairman of Contingent Expenses. This helps to explain the speed with which the bill was passed. According to the Jackson Daily News (April 2, 1964), "it was referred to Burgin's appropriations committee, which met during a noon recess, reported the bill favorably and sent it onto the floor a few minutes later." Sen. DeCell, the other sponsor, is Chairman of the Constitution and Vice-chairman of Fees and Salaries Committees. He is a member of the Citizens Council.

26. SUPPORT FOR GOVERNOR WALLACE

Concurrent Resolution in the House (Passed by the House)

A Resolution commending Wallace for his Wisconsin 'victory'.

According to the Jackson Clarion-Ledger, April 10, 1964: "The House approved a resolution by Rep. Abie Miller of Greene commending Gov. George Wallace, of Alabama for his Wisconsin vote. Rep. George Swindoll, of Calhoun, immediately took up a collection, later announcing that $185 had been subscribed by individual members and the Press, and been sent to Wallace with a note "On to Indiana...Best Wishes."

27. BILL TO PAY COSTS OF COUNTY REGISTRARS AND CIRCUIT CLERKS CONVICTED UNDER THE 1957 and 1960 CIVIL RIGHTS ACTS

Senate Bill No. 1880. (Passed in Senate, now in House)

This bill would allow the State to actively support county officials who refuse to comply with Federal Court orders to register Negroes on an equal basis with whites.

> SECTION 1. All costs, fines and/or penalties assessed or levied upon any circuit clerk and registrar of any county of this state in any suit brought or maintained by the United States of America pursuant to the Civil Rights Act of 1957, and the Civil Rights Act of 1960,...and any amendments that mey be added thereto, shall be paid from the funds of the State of Mississippi.

The bill was introduced by Sen. E. L. Pittman of Hattiesburg, Forrest County. The Registrar of Forrest County, Theron C. Lynd, has been convicted of Criminal Contempt in a voter registration suit brought by the Federal Government.

The Justice Department obtained a temporary injunction against Lynd enjoining him to treat Negroes and whites alike in regard to voter registration. Despite the injunction, Lynd continued his earlier policy of obstructing Negro voter registration. The Justice Department is now trying to make the injunction permanent and to uphold the conviction of Lynd in theCircuit Court of Appeals.

28. THE "LIBERTY AMENDMENT" TO OUTLAW FEDERAL AGENCIES AND THE INCOME TAX

House Concurrent Resolution No. 16 (Passed in both Houses, now in joint committee)

This proposed amendment to the U.S. Constitution would require the U.S. Government to dissolve or sell all agencies which might compete with private enterprise. The personal income tax would also be ended.

The Mississippi Senate adopted April 28 the so-called Liberty Amendment, aimed at getting the Federal Government out of competition with private enterprise. The amendment would force the government to dispose of an estimated 707 agencies and abolish taxes on personal income, estates and gifts.

The measure already had cleared the House in slightly different form. The bill has therefore been sent back to the House. If Mississippi approves the Liberty Amendment, as it seem almost certain to do, it would be the seventh state to do so.

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES TO PROPOSE TO THE PEOPLE AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES WHEREBY THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT WILL REFRAIN FROM ENGAGING IN PRIVATE ENTERPRISE EXCEPT AS PROVIDED BY THE CONSTITUTION AND REPEALING THE SIXTEENTH AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES WHEREBY CONGRESS SHALL NOT HAVE THE POWER TO LEVY TAXES ON PERSONAL INCOMES, ESTATES AND/OR GIFTS.

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, THE SENATE CONCURRING THEREIN, That we respectfully request the Congress of the United States to propose to the people an amendment or call a convention for such purpose as provided by Article V of the Constitution an Article providing as follows

"ARTICLE

"SECTION 1. The Government of the United States shall not engage in any business, professional, commercial, financial or industrial enterprise except as specified in the Constitution

SECTION 3. The activities of the United States Government which violate the intent and purposes of this amendment shall, within a period of three (3) years from the date of ratification of this amendment, be liquidated and the properties and facilities affected shall be sold.

SECTION 4. Three (3) years after the ratification of this amend ment, the Sixteenth Amendment to the Constitution of the United States shall stand repealed and thereafter Congress shall not levy taxes on personal incomes, estates, and/or gifts."

Passage in the Senate was on a vote of 26-21 in what the Jackson Clarion-Ledger described as "spirited debate limited to 20 minutes each for opposing sides."

An amendment was adopted deleting the appeal for a constitutional convention. Sen. Bill Burgin of Columbus, who proposed the amendment, "argued that a constitutional convention would be controlled 'by liberals who would take advantage of the situation to write into the constitution the civil rights bill now before the Senate,'" (Jackson Clarion-Ledger, April 29, 1964).

"He said, 'If Mississippi, the poorest state in the union, which benefits more from federal programs than any other, is going to try to take

away the rights of the government to help it, let's at least do it in such a way that it won't be used as a club over our heads.'

"Sen. E. K. Collins of Laurel, who led opposition to the measure, said a convention could also result in a constitutional ban against the Senate filibuster, 'which is our strongest deterent to those people in the North....'

"Sen. George Yarbrough of Red Banks, who pushed the resolution to passage, denied that it would abolish federal agencies such as the Tennessee Valley Authority, Rural Electrification Association, Federal Housing Administration and Veterans Administration.

"' We know they are never going to do that,' he said. 'But this is our way of telling the government that we oppose future growth in areas where it will complete (sic) with private businesses.'"

Approval of the amendment deleting the appeal for a constitutional convention sent the bill into joint committee, where it has remained for several weeks. If the amendment is approved, it would mean that Mississippi's passage of the Liberty Amendment would not be counted together with the six states which passed it previously, because the Constitution provides that Amendments must be passed in identical form in all states.

It is interesting to note that Gov. Paul B. Johnson, who steered the measure to passage in the Senate two years ago (it failed then in the House), campaigned in the 1963 Gubernatorial race on a platform that supported both the Liberty Amendment and TVA.

29. BILL TO END URBAN RENEWAL

House bill ____ (Passed in House, sent to Senate)

A bill ending urban renewal in Mississippi to avoid "federal encroachment".

The House voted on April 8 to end urban renewal in Mississippi except in four cities where projects are already under construction. The vote on the bill was 100 for and 13 against.

The purpose of the bill was to keep the Federal Government out of municipal affairs. As the Jackson Clarion-Ledger of April 13 explained: "House supporters of the measure said the federal government could use the program to force racial integration."

The hypocrisy of the measure was pointed up by Rep. Bill Callicott of Tate. According to the Jackson Daily News of April 10, 1964, Callicott "said the state itself accepted millions in federal aid and to deny aid to cities was discriminatory."

In fact, Mississippi receives more money in Federal aid each year than it pays in taxes to the Federal Government.

30. BILL TO INVALIDATE THE 24TH AMENDMENT WHICH BANS THE POLL TAX

* Senate Bill No. 1783 (Passed in both Houses and signed)

This bill appears to comply with the 24th Amendment which bans the poll tax in Federal elections. But the bill in fact provides for a similar form of registration which would have the same exclusive effects as the poll tax itself.

Under the new law, a poll tax receipt must still be obtained though no payment is required, the tax collector stamping "Poll Tax Not Paid" across the receipt. Receipts must be presented for the two previous years, as under present law, except that for 1964 only a single receipt will be required. This was to be obtained within 30 days after the passage of the law (April 24th) and at least 10 days before any election, (the first election after passage being the June 2nd Democratic Primary).

The poll tax has been effective, not so much because of the expense involved, but because Negroes usually did not know that the tax had to be paid for two years previous to the election and did not care to face white county officials, who would often refuse to accept their payment. These problems would continue under the new law, despite the elimination of an actual cash payment.

AN ACT TO PROVIDE THAT PAYMENT OF POLL TAX SHALL NOT BE REQUIRED TO VOTE FOR CANDIDATES FOR FEDERAL OFFICES AND TO PROVIDE A SEPARATE BALLOT THEREFOR, AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

WHEREAS, by virtue of the twenty-fourth (24th) amendment to the Constitution of the United States of America, payment of poll tax is not required as a condition for voting for United States Senator, for United States Representative or for President and Vice-President or electors for President and Vice-President of the United States in any general, special or primary election held in this state, and

WHEREAS, information contained on the poll tax receipts issued in this state giving the age, sex, place of residence and election precinct is vital to the commissioners of election in revising the poll books as is lawfully required of them from time to time and shall no longer be available unless some other method of obtaining such information is devised by statute....

SECTION 1. Notwithstanding any statute or the Constitution of this state, the payment of poll tax shall not be required as a condition for voting for United States Senator, for United States Representative or for President and Vice-President or electors for President and Vice-President of the United States, in any general, special, or primary election....but any elector subject to the payment of poll tax must have paid the tax and obtained a receipt therefor in the time and manner now provided by statute or he must obtain a poll tax receipt without payment of the tax, in the manner and within the time provided in the next succeeding section of this act.

> SECTION 2. Any person who is subject to the payment of poll tax may apply to the tax collector of the county of his residence....The applicant shall furnish to the tax collector all information necessary to enable the tax collector to fill out the blanks in the poll tax receipt as required by Section 9919.5, Mississippi Code of 1942, Recompiled, and the tax collector shall issue the receipt as in cases where the poll tax is paid, except that he shall place the following notice on the face of the original and duplicate receipt: "Poll Tax Not Paid".

Those not paying poll tax will receive separate ballots at the elections listing only candidates for national office; or in the event that voting machines are used, those sections not applying to candidates for national office will be locked.

Because only thirty days were allowed for obtaining receipts of 'non-payment' this year, and because the 'non-payment' provision received almost no coverage in the Mississippi press, many Negroes who have recently registered in the state were not aware of the provision and it appeared that they would therefore not be allowed to vote in the elections this year, including the June 2 primary.

However, on June 1, 1964, Judge Harold Cox, Chief Judge of the United States District Court for the Southern District of Mississippi issued a temporary restraining order against 1,230 Election Commissioners to prohibit application of Senate Bill No. 1783. This order restrains the election officials from requiring any poll tax receipts whatsoever for people who want to vote for federal offices, such as for U.S. Senator. However, the order provided that those who did not have a poll tax receipt would have to present an affidavit showing that they were registered to vote in their precinct at least 30 days prior to the June 2 election.

Since this order was issued late on the 1st of June, it was obvious that almost no one would be able to obtain affidavits for the election the next day. In an attempt to challenge the new law and the new court order both, Negroes therefore went to the polls without either poll tax receipts or affidavits. They met with varying responses. In Canton, those without affidavits were not allowed to vote, and a charge of $1.00 was leveled for obtaining an affidavit, (poll tax in Mississip is $2.00). In Columbus, one woman arrived at the polls without an affidavit and was told by one of the clerks she could not vote. But the other clerk said, "I don't want to go to jail", and suggested they allow the woman to vote. She was permitted to do so. In a few cases, even those with paid poll tax receipts were not allowed to vote, a not unusual circumstance in Mississippi.

Lawyers for the civil rights movement are now attempting to make the restraining order permanent and to strike down the affidavit requirement.

It should be noted that the list of those who originally introduced the 'no poll tax' bill in the Senate was headed by Sen. George Yarbrough, President Pro Tempore of the Senate and member of the State Executive Committee of the Citizens Councils.

31. BILL TO REDUCE THE NUMBER OF NEGROES ON MISSISSIPPI JURY LISTS

House Bill No. 937 (Passed in House, sent to Senate)

This bill attempts to reduce the number of Negroes on Mississippi jury lists by changing the qualifications for jury members.

The bill provides that only the names of qualified voters be drawn as jurors, instead of the present practice of choosing landowners as well as voters. The landowner provision was introduced under the last state administration, because trials in some counties had been thrown out on the grounds that no Negroes were on the jury lists. In some Mississippi counties no Negroes are allowed to vote.

According to a UPI report, Rep. Thompson McClellan, in steering the new bill to unanimous passage, noted that "'persons of a particular color (Negroes) who own land outnumber the persons of the other color two to one in some counties.' He said that this could lead to 'bad situations.'"

In contrast with landowning percentages, only 26,000 Negroes are registered to vote in Mississippi compared with 522,000 whites.

Nonetheless, a companion bill (House Bill 953) was passed to grant authority to any circuit court judge to include as a competent juror any person who has been a resident landowner for more than one year. The UPI report noted that "backers said this would allow judges to qualify white property owners as jurors regardless of whether they were qualified electors."

32. BILL TO PROVIDE PRISON TERMS OR STERILIZATION FOR PARENTS OF ILLEGITIMATE CHILDREN

* House Bill No. 180 (Passed by House, revised version passed by Senate, Senate version finally approved by both Houses and signed)

This bill in its original House form gave parents of a second illegitimate child the choice between three to five years in the State Penitentiary and sexual sterilization. A Senate version, striking the sterilization clause and reducing the penalty to a misdemeanor was finally approved and signed.

AN ACT TO PROVIDE THAT ANY PERSON WHO SHALL BECOME THE PARENT OF AN ILLEGITIMATE CHILD SHALL BE GUILTY OF A FELONY AND TO PROVIDE THE PUNISHMENT THEREFOR.

SECTION 1. If any person, who shall have previously become the natural parent of an illegitimate child within or without this State by coition within or without this State, shall again become the natural parent of an illegitimate child born within this State, he or she shall be guilty of a felony, and, upon conviction thereof, shall be punished by imprisonment in the State Pentitentiary for not less than one (1) year nor more than three (3) years. A subsequent conviction hereunder shall be punishable by imprisonment in the penitentiary for not less t

three (3) years nor more than five (5) years. Provided, however, that for the purposes of this act, multiple births shall be construed to be the birth of one (1) child. Provided that the emotional and psychological make-up of the offender shall be taken into consideration by the court of jurisdiction. Provided, however, that any parent convicted hereunder may submit to sterilization in lieu of imprisonment.

SECTION 2. The circuit court of the county in which said illegitimate child is born shall have jurisdiction of any action brought under this section, but no male person shall be convicted solely on the uncorroborated testimony of the female person giving birth to the child.

SECTION 3. On or before the tenth day of each month, the Mississippi State Health Department shall notify in writing the district attorney of each district in Mississippi of the names and address of each person shown as a parent on the birth certificate of any illegitimate child filed with said department during the preceeding month.

Rep. Meek of Webster County, who authorized this bill, clearly suggested in floor debate that it was aimed at the Negro community. According to the Jackson Clarion-Ledger, (March 12, 1964), Rep. Meek cited that there were 8,647 illegitimate non-white births in the state in 1962 and 444 illegitimate white births.

He said,"that the State of Mississippi is subsidizing illegitimacy through welfare payments, and that the moral structure has completely broken down in some segments of society."

The provision for sterilization, added by amendment, was even more clearly aimed at Negroes. The amendment was introduced by Rep. W. Todd McCullough of Panola County in the Mississippi Delta. COFO has heard of several instances in which Negro women in the Delta have already been sterilized involuntarily while in the hospital for other reasons. One sworn affidavit to this effect has already been taken down by members of the COFO staff. It would appear that Rep. McCullough's amendment simply attempts to legalize in part a situation which already exists.

Rep. McCullough is listed in the Legislative Handbook as, among other occupations, a cotton buyer. Negroes, who are a clear majority in the Delta area, have traditionally provided labor for the cotton plantations. However, introduction of the cotton-picker a few years ago and its rapid spread will make large Negro labor forces relatively unnecessary within the next few years. Recent political organization among the Negroes makes their majority position threatening in the eyes of the Delta's white community. There is therefore good reason, as the cotton kings of the Delta conceive it, for reducing the Negro population as rapidly as possible.

If any doubt remained that this was the purpose of the sterilization provision, it was cleared up by Rep. Stone Barefield, of Hattiesburg, who told the House, "when they start cutting they'll head for Chicago."

Though the bill passed the House 72-37, strong opposition was expressed before the vote. According to the Jackson Clarion-Ledger, March 12, 1964:

"Rep. Horace Lester, Hinds County, tried desperately to have the measure recommitted on the grounds that innocent children would be victimized by publicity and loss of parents' support.

"He contended that 'you don't know what goes on in the mind of a child who had nothing to do with his being here, when you cast slurs at him.'

"However, the House, which was in a boisterous mood, voted against recommittment."

It should be noted that conditions at Parchman State Penitentiary (see below) are such that many Negroes would probably have chosen sterilization rather than the prison terms provided in the bill. Besides, many Negroes could not afford the loss of three to five years' work and the record of a felony against their name.

Further information on the House bill is available from the Student Non-violent Coordinating Committee, 8 Raymond St., Atlanta, Georgia, in a pamphlet entitled Genocide in Mississippi.

The Senate Judiciary Committee reported out a milder version of the bill, making a second illegitimate child a misdemeanor and the parents liable for a 30 to 90 day jail term and fine of up to $250.

The bill, as amended, failed to pass the Senate by a vote of 26 to 22. On May 13, supporters of the bill prepared for a second round by distributing mimeographed copies of the SNCC pamphlet, Genocide in Mississippi to all members of the Senate and House. Supporters felt that they could sway votes by demonstrating that SNCC opposed the bill. The Memphis Commercial Appeal stated: "Legislators were unwilling to permit their action to be considered as being influenced by the Negro civil rights group."

Supporters of the bill were successful. The amended bill was called up for reconsideration and passed by a vote of 30 to 16. Ten senators who had previously voted against the bill, voted for it on reconsideration. Three who had previously voted against the bill, now abstained.

The House finally concurred 86-22 in the Senate amendments, eliminating the sterilization and felony provisions. However, racial arguments cropped up again in the final House debate, when Rep. Ben Owen of Columbus spoke in favor of the bill. According to the Delta Democrat Times (May 21, 1964), "'This is the only way I know to stop this black tide which threatens to engulf us,' Owen said in urging passage."

33. BILL TO PROVIDE STERILIZATION FOR THOSE CONVICTED OF A THIRD FELONY

House Bill No. 788 (Still in Judiciary En Banc Committee)

A bill to provide mandatory sterilization of those convicted of a third felony.

AN ACT TO PROVIDE FOR THE SEXUAL STERILIZATION OF HABITUAL CRIMINALS; TO DEFINE HABITUAL CRIMINALS; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES

SECTION 1. For the purpose of this act any person who has been convicted of a felony in any court of the State of Mississippi, or of the United States, or any other state, for the third time, is hereby determined to be an habitual criminal.

SECTION 2. Whenever any person convicted of a felony for the third time and sentenced to the Mississippi State Penitentiary, upon determination by the superintendent of the penitentiary that such person is an habitual criminal, as defined in this act, the superintendent shall present such facts to the trustees of the Mississippi State Penitentiary in writing, and the trustees, after determining the facts as alleged by the superintendent to be true and correct, shall enter an order upon their minutes authorizing and directing the superintendent to have performed by some competent surgeon to be designated by the superintendent, or by the board of trustees, upon the convict the operation of sexual sterilization, that is, the operation of vasectomy if upon a male and of salpingectomy if upon a female

SECTION 3. In the event the board of trustees shall determine that a convict is not an habitual criminal, as defined in this act, said board shall enter an order of its findings, and shall further order that the operation of sexual sterilization shall not be performed upon the convict.

The remainder of the bill provides for appeals by the person convicted to the chancery court of the county in which the State Penitentiary is located (Sunflower County), and to the Mississippi Supreme Court. However, as most Negroes in Mississippi are unaware of the processes of appeal, and as Mississippi courts are notoriously unfavorable to Negro litigants, it is unlikely that these provisions will substantially reduce the application of the law as far as Negroes are concerned. Section 3, which might provide an 'out' for white prisoners also would probably not be applied in the case of Negroes.

Rep. Fred Jones, who introduced the bill, is from Sunflower County, which is Sen. James Eastland's county and also the site of Parchman Penitentiary. This is cotton country, with large Negro majorities. Moreover, Fred Jones is himself a former Superintendent of Parchman. Finally, Jones was a member of the State Executive Committee of the White Citizens Council in 1956 and is probably still a member.

34. BILL TO REDUCE THE PENALTY FOR RAPE

House Bill No. 145 (Defeated in the House)

A defeated bill which would have reduced the penalty for rape. The present penalty is either death or life imprisonment.

House Bill 145, to allow lesser sentences than life imprisonment or the death penalty for rape, was defeated March 11 in the House by a vote of 57-58. Sponsors of the bill, who wanted a penalty of 10 years for

rape, said that with the lower term the state would get convictions now failing because courts and jurors consider life sentences or death too severe.

Once again racial attitudes cropped up in the floor debate. According to the Jackson Clarion-Ledger, (March 12, 1964), Rep. Russell Fox of Claiborne told the House: "'Collored people do not feel the same way about ravishment as do white people....You would in this bill reduce the penalty from death at the expense of your wife or daughter, just to please some defense attorneys. I am against that.'"

"Asked by Rep. Fred Jones, of Sunflower, former superintendent of the state prison, if the lowering of penalties might not encourage mob action if juries gave light sentences, Fox agreed that it would."

35. BILLS TO ALLOW ARRESTED CIVIL RIGHTS WORKERS TO BE TRANSFERRED TO PARCHMAN PENITENTIARY

* House Bills No. 321 and 322 (Passed in both Houses and signed)

These bills provide that city and county officials may transfer prisoners to the State Penitentiary in the event of "crowded or inadequate facilities".

HB 321, SECTION 1, provides in part that:

> The governing authorities of municipalities shall have the power to construct and maintain a municipal prison, and to regulate the keeping of the same and the prisoners therein; but males and females shall be confined in separate cells or compartments, and also the whites and blacks shall be kept separate....
>
> Provided further, that if there is no municipal jail nor county jail available to house municipal prisoners or, if facilities available are so crowded or inadequate or will be made so by further commitment of prisoners, and if there are no convenient or adequate jails otherwise available for the accommodation of such prisoners, the authorities of any municipality are hereby authorized to make arrangements with the Board of Correction of the Mississippi State Penitentiary to house such prisoners who may be committed to any of the facilities at the Mississippi State Penitentiary....

HB 322 makes the same provisions for County prisoners.

The bills were steered to unanimous passage in the House by Rep. Joe Moss, of Hinds County (Jackson), especially to assure Hinds County and Jackson adequate jail space in the event of mass arrests this summer. Jackson, and other cities, have on occasion found their jails overcrowde during racial demonstrations.

According to the Jackson Clarion-Ledger of April 10, 1964, supporters of the bill apparently prefered that prisoners transferred to Parchman be placed "in the Maximum Security units."

36. BILL TO ALLOW DISCLOSURE OF JUVENILE COURT RECORDS TO STATE AGENCIES

Senate Bill No. 2016 (Passed in Senate, amended version passed in House)

This bill would allow disclosures from records of juvenile offenders to any office or agency of the State. Disclosures would be at the discretion of the Youth Court judge.

The purpose of the bill is to allow the Board of Trustees of the University of Mississippi to consider the civil rights arrest records of Negro applicants. At the present time, since Youth Court records cannot be released, the university cannot officially use civil rights arrests as a grounds for refusing admission. The bill was passed with almost no discussion after one Senator told the chamber: "This is an emergency bill they need up at Ole Miss."

The House broadened the measure by adding an amendment that the names of juveniles and their parents may be published in local newspapers after the second offense.

37. BILL TO REFORM PARCHMAN PENITENTIARY

* House Bill No. 227 (Passed in House, revised bill passed in Senate, House version finally passed in both Houses and signed)

A 'reform' bill for Parchman Penitentiary which, however, allows continued use of the lash on prisoners (see Section 48). The bill centralizes control of the Penitentiary under the Governor.

The importance of the bills allowing transfer of city and county prisoners to Parchman becomes clearer when something is known about conditions at the State Penitentiary. Parchman Penitentiary is reputedly the roughest jail in the country.

In the summer of 1963, 23 Negro civil rights workers were committed to Parchman for 56 days. Several of the prisoners were tortured. Three were suspended by their wrists, so that they could barely reach the ground on tiptoe, for periods of 8 to 24 hours. At other times, prisoners were put alternately in 'hot' and 'cold' boxes. Women prisoners were forced to spend about half their time in the cells stripped to the waist, white men being brought through the jail to observe them.

It is in the light of these facts that the 'Reform' Bill for Parchman must be viewed:

> SECTION 1. It shall be the policy of this State, in the operation and management of the prison system, to so manage and conduc the same in that manner as will be consistent with the operation of a modern prison system, and with the view of making the system self-sustaining; and that those convicted of violating the law and sentenced to a term in the State Penitentiary shall have humane treatment, and be given opportunity, encouragement and training in the matter of reformation. All prisoners shall be worked within the prison walls and upon farms owned or leased by the State except a s provided in Sections 35 and 36 of this

act; /providing for road work in two counties/ and in no event shall the labor of a prisoner be sold to any contractor or lessee to work on farms, or elsewhere, nor shall any prisoner be worked on any farm or otherwise, upon shares, except such farm be owned or leased by the State of Mississippi.

Most of the articles in this long bill concern organization of the Penitentiary. Control over the Penitentiary was centralized in a five-man Mississippi Penitentiary Board appointed by the Governor, and in a Superintendent, also an executive appointee. Section 48 deals with 'discipline of prisoners'.

SECTION 48. The superintendent may set up rules regarding the discipline of prisoners. No prisoner may be placed in solitary confinement except under orders of the superintendent. Any prisoner held in solitary confinement shall be fed a meal at least once every day and shall be examined by a physician at least once every two (2) days. No prisoner shall be placed in the "dark hole" of the maximum security unit for a longer period than twenty-four (24) hours. Corporal punishment of any kind shall not be administered to any prisoner, except on the authorit of the superintendent, or in his absence by the acting superintendent; provided, however, that when corporal punishment is administered to any prisoner, it shall be administered in the presence of the superintendent or the acting superintendent or the chaplain. Whenever a sergeant or other employee of the penitentiary considers it necessary that a convict be punished, he must make a written report to the superintendent regarding punishment, stating in such report the offense committed by the prisoner, and in the event that the superintendent or acting superintendent considers it necessary that such prisoner shall be given corporal punishment, he shall give written authority therefor directed to the sergeant or, in his absence, the acting sergeant, designated to administer such punishment, specifying the number of licks or lashes, not to exceed ten(10), that may be inflicted. The report of the sergeant to the effect that such punishment has been administered shall be delivered to the superintendent and shall be placed in the files of the prisoner involved, and shall become part of the permanent record of such prisoner.

Any employee violating the provisions of this section shall be immediately dismissed; and any employees who shall violate the provision of this section shall be guilty of a felony and upon conviction therefor shall be punished by imprisonment in the State Penitentiary for a term of not less than one (1) year nor more than five (5) years.

While the bill was still in the Senate, Sen. Howard McDonnell of Biloxi proposed an amendment which would require that the Superintendent of the penitentiary have two years of college. Foes said the amendment would force the ouster of the present Superintendent, C. E. Breazeale. The amendment failed. McDonnell then asked that the Superintendent be required to have a high school education. That amendment was also defeated.

The Board of the Penitentiary recently ruled against use of the lash. However, when Sen. Howard McDonnell attempted to get an amendment to that effect into the Senate version of the bill, floor debate showed that feelings about use of the whip were by no means unanimous. Sen. Hayden Campbell of Jackson told the Senate: "The board has already passed a resolution against use of the whip....Why do you want to tie their hands?"

McDonnell answered that, "It's awful to hold people down and beat them.' The amendment passed.

However, the joint House-Senate committee on the bill deleted the anti-whip amendment. When the bill returned to the Senate, the Senate re-committed the bill to the joint committee."Most of the controversy centered around conference action deleting a provision outlawing use of the lash on prisoners," according to the Jackson Daily News, April 22, 1964.

In the final version approved by both House and Senate, the lash still was not outlawed, though the "ten lashes" provided for in the House bill is apparently a compromise between earlier law and the wishes of those opposing the lash all together. According to the Jackson Clarion-Ledger, May 27, 1964, "McDonnell...accepted the compromise as a step forward after he had been assured the lash would not be used 'during the next two years.'"

MISSISSIPPI DOCKET

September 21, 1964

DOCKET

I

FEDERAL COURT CASES

A. Removals.

ANGUILLA

1. LOUIS GRANT V. TOWN OF ANGUILLA

2. ROBERT WRIGHT V. TOWN OF ANGUILLA

(S. D. MISS.) Crim. Act.Nos. 4373, 4374

Grant and Wright were arrested in Anguilla, Sharkey County, 8/11/64 on a charge of littering. COFO workers, they were distributing handbills urging Negroes to register to vote. They were held in the county jail in Rolling Fork until the next day, and were not permitted to make a phone call. They were released 8/12/64 on $200 cash bond, trial set for 8/26.

8/24/64 petition for removal filed in federal court. Motion to remand viled 8/29/64. No hearing date set yet.

BATESVILLE

1. BENJAMIN GRAHAM V. CITY OF BATESVILLE, ET AL

(N. D. MISS.) - No. 6454

2. CLAUDE WEAVER V. CITY OF BATESVILLE, ET AL

(N. D. MISS.) - No. 6453

8/3/64 Weaver and Graham, COFO volunteers, were arrested in parking lot of Panola County Courthouse, where they were taking names of potential voter registrants who could not register because registrar's office was closed (counter to order of N. D. Miss. See _____). Charged with failure to leave the courthouse and obstructing an officer, each released on payment of $200 cash bond, pending trial in J. P. Ct., Panola County, 5th beat. 8/9/64 petition for removal filed. Motion to remand filed 8/18. Brief in support of remand filed 8/28. Brief in opposition filed 9/19.

CANTON

1. (13 Defendants) CAROLE MERRITT, ET AL V. STATE OF MISS.

(S. D. MISS.)

1/23/64 8 defendants arrested while distributing leaflets and charged with disturbing peace and publishing libel. 1 defendant charged with contributing to delinquency of minor.

2 defendants arrested week of Jan. 16 on charges of disturbing peace predicated on alleged intimidation of a Negro woman who refused to support the boycott.

1/24/64 - Carole Merritt, Vassar graduate working for

SNCC, arrested for published libel and contributing to delinquency of a minor.

2/7/64 - Two COFO workers arrested for disturbing the peace, for allegedly intimidating a Negro seeking employment at a boycotted restaurant.

Defendants above tried Municipal Court of Canton 2/3/64, except those arrested 2/7/64, tried 2/10/64. Each was sentenced to 6 months and $500 fine for each offense. Bond of $500 per charge set. Defendants spent over a month in jail because unable to make bail.

Petitions for removal filed - June 1964. Answer and motion to dismiss and remand August 7, 1964. Hearing fed. dist. court Aug. 14, 1964.

2. (52 defendants) EARNEST L. ALEXANDER, ET AL V. STATE OF MISS.

(S. D. MISS.)

5/29/64 - Mass arrests occurred during Canton "Freedom Day" when Negroes left Mount Zion Baptist Church to walk to the courthouse to register to vote. Following the arrests, defendants were held incommunicado for 2 days. 25 are charged with parading without permit; 24 with picketing; 2 with obstructing sidewalk. One defendant, McKinley Hamblin, was beaten unconscious, hospitalized, and later charged with disturbing the peace and resisting arrest. Trial was set for 6/8/64. Petition for removal filed, June, 1964. Answer and motion to remand filed 7/24/64. Hearing on remand held 8/14/1964.

3. STATE OF MISS. V. SOLOFF

(S. D. MISS.)

8/1/64 - Rabbi Soloff and 5 COFO workers arrested under Canton ordinance prohibiting distribution of printed information without permit. Defendants were passing out Freedom registration forms. Petition for removal filed August 3, 1964.

CLARKSDALE

1. MARY BROOKS, MARY DIXON, and IRMA JEAN MILLER V. CITY OF CLARKSDALE

(N. D. MISS.) DCR 6751

7/20/64 - Arrested for trespass when they sought service in the heretofore "white" section of the Hamburger Cafe - released on bail, $51 each. 7/23 trial in police court (not a court of record), entered nolo pleas and were fined $100 each. Released on appeal bond of $202 each pending trial in Coahoma County Circuit Court. 7/28 petition for removal filed. No answer.

2. MARIE GEORGE V. CITY OF CLARKSDALE

(N. D. MISS.) No. DCR 6448.

7/8/64 - White COFO worker in Clarksdale City Hall to observe a criminal trial was refused permission to enter

the courtroom and retired to wait in a stairwell, where she was arrested and charged with taking a photograph in City Hall. At 7/13 arraignment, she pleaded not guilty. Case continued to 7/25.

7/22 petition for removal filed. Motion to remand filed on or about 7/29. Brief in support of remand motion filed 8/15. Brief in opposition filed 9/15.

3. WILLIE GOODLOE V. STATE OF MISS.

(N. D. MISS.) DCR 6450

7/8/64 - Rev. Goodloe was put in Coahoma County Jail in Clarksdale and charged with selling cotton subject to a landlord's lien. Bail set at $1,000. Petitioner, about 2 years active in civil rights activities, has been harassed by having criminal suits of a similar nature brought against him. He was forced twice to settle claims he alleges he did not owe for a total of $348.70. He owed $25.

With full knowledge of the county prosecutor, white local counsel visited Goodloe in jail. Goodloe, however, chose to retain volunteer lawyer.

Petition for removal filed 7/27. Motion to set bail filed 7/27, granted same day. Bail fixed at $300. Habeas granted 7/27. Released on payment of $300 7/28. Motion to remand filed 8/28. Coahoma County brief due 9/15, brief for petitioner within 15 days from filing.

4. STATE OF MISS. V. REV. J. D. RAYFORD (Coahoma Cty. Circuit)

REV. J. D. RAYFORD V. STATE OF MISS.

(N. D. MISS.) Civ. Act. _____

Defendant, active in summer project, was arrested 6/24 in Clarksdale and charged with drunken driving and reckless driving, both of which he flatly denies. At trial in Municipal Court in Clarksdale, 7/2/64, Judge Connell refused to permit out-of-state volunteer lawyers to participate. Rayford pleaded nolo, was found guilty on first count, and fined $110. Appeal bond of $220 posted, trial de novo.

Petition for removal filed 7/13/64. Motion to remand filed. In chambers 9/17 Judge Clayton indicated that since, in his belief, the removal petition was improperly filed, state court proceedings are not stayed.

5. WILLIE LEE SCOTT, ET AL V. COUNTY OF COAHOMA

(N. D. MISS.) DC 6436

Plaintiffs, 5 Negroes, arrested 8/2/63 at lunch counter in Walker's Walgreen Drug Store after being refused service and asked to leave. Charged with trespass, released on bond. Petition for removal filed 5/64, motion to remand filed 8/16/64. Brief in support of motion to remand due 10/3/64. Brief in opposition due 15 days from date of filing of supporting brief.

COLUMBUS

1. HOWARD B. GLUSHAKOW, ET AL V. STATE OF MISS.

(N. D. MISS.) Criminal Action ECR 6434.

On 7/1/64 Glushakow, a white SNCC worker, was arrested and charged with improper driver's license, registration, inspection stickers, and passing on the right. On 7/8/64, the three co-petitioners, also SNCC workers, were arrested while canvassing voter registrants, and charged with trespass.

Petition for removal filed 7/9/64.

2. STATE OF MISS. V. JOAN QUINN BRISBEN

(N. D. MISS.) Criminal Action No. ECR 6459

White Chicago teacher working for COFO arrested 9/1 at road block on Highway 82, charged with improper license and tag, and failure to have Miss. license inspection sticker. She had valid Illinois license and was within time limit for nonresident drivers. Trial set for 9/5/64 Lowndes County, 5th beat J. P. Ct.

Petition for removal filed 9/3/64 in Eastern Div., N. D. Miss. No answer to date.

DREW

1. JOE B. SMITH V. STATE OF MISS.

(N. D. MISS.) GCR 6460

On 8/13/64 Smith, a white COFO worker from New York, was arrested for "trespassing on school property" while talking peaceably with two Negroes on Hunter High School Playground in Drew. At 8/14/64 trial in Mayor's Ct. he was charged and convicted of "disturbing the peace by conduct which might have lead (sic) to a breach of the peace," and sentenced to 3 months on the Sunflower County Farm and a $300 fine. Bond pending appeal for trial de novo in Sunflower County Circuit Court set at $500, which was posted. Trial date not yet set.

8/20/64 - Petition for removal filed. Motion to remand and brief in support of remand, 9/4/64. No hearing date set.

GREENWOOD

1. CITY OF CLARKSDALE V. STOKELY CARMICHAEL

(N. D. MISS.) DCR 6427

July, 1964 - Head of Greenwood COFO office arrested in Clarksdale, charged with failure to signal when turning. Released upon payment of $18 bond. Trial set for 7/16.

7/15/64 petition for removal filed in FDC, Delta Division. Motion to remand filed 7/21/64. No hearing date set.

GULFPORT

1. STATE OF MISS. V. MILLER)
STATE OF MISS. V. GOLDSTEIN) (S. D. MISS..
STATE OF MISS. V. CLEVERDON)

7/17/64 - Petition for removal filed.

8/15/64 - Hearing on motion to remand. Affidavits and counteraffidavits filed. Order to remand entered Sept. 14, 1964. Motion to stay remand order and notice of appeal to 5th Circuit filed Sept. 19, 1964.

HOLLY SPRINGS

1. ELWOOD BERRY V. STATE OF MISS. (N. D. MISS.)

Criminal Action WCR 6437

7/24/64 - Berry, white COFO worker, arrested and charged with disturbing the peace by using profane language in public. Released on $500 bond pending trial in Marshall County J. P. Ct.

Petition for removal filed 7/27. Motion to remand filed 8/4. Briefs requested.

2. FRANK CIECIORKA V. CITY OF HOLLY SPRINGS (N. D. MISS.)
WCR 6438

8/12/64, white COFO worker arrested for carrying a sign without a permit. Breach of peace charge added. Arraignment 8/12 in Municipal Court. Petition for removal filed 8/17 in Western Div., N.D. No answer.

3. CLEVELAND L. SELLERS, JR. V. CITY OF HOLLY SPRINGS, ET AL

(N. D. MISS.) Criminal Action WCR 6437

Negro COFO worker was arrested 8/1/64 on premises of Ragsdale Chevrolet Garage, where he and another COFO worker, at all times peaceful, were inspecting the remains of a car in which one COFO worker was killed and another badly injured a few hours before. He was charged with "threatening to do bodily harm, attempting sinple assault--Breach of Peace." Released on $500 cash bail, trial set for 8/8 in J. P. Ct., 1st beat, Marshall County.

8/7/64 - petition for removal filed. No answer.

4. LARRY RUBIN V. CITY OF HOLLY SPRINGS (N. D. MISS.)

Criminal Action WCR 6430

7/26/64 - White COFO worker arrested and charged with reckless driving. Petition for removal filed 7/27, motion to remand filed 8/4/64. Briefs requested.

INDIANOLA

1. CHRISTOPHER HEXTER V. CITY OF INDIANOLA

(N. D. MISS.) GCR 6461

Petitioner, a white COFO worker, arrested 8/16/64 while distributing leaflets in the city of Indianola along with several Negroes. Charged with distributing handbills without a license.

Convicted 8/17/64 in municipal court and fined $100. Bond pending appeal to Sunflower County Circuit Court for trial de novo set at $500. 8/20/64 petition for removal filed. Motion for remand filed 9/3/64. No hearing date set yet.

2. CITY OF INDIANOLA V. OTIS BROWN, JR., ET AL

(INDIANOLA FLICK-IN CASES) (N. D. MISS.)

On Sunday, 9/6/64, a group of 5 whites and 3 Negroes was arrested for trespass while standing quietly on the property of the Bryant Chapel, a Negro church in Indianola. They had attempted to buy tickets at the "white" side of the "Honey Theatre" and, when refused service, returned to the church. When the police chief failed to secure an affidavit from a church trustee, charge was changed to refusing to obey a police officer. They were released on $100 bond each, on 9/8/64.

Removal petitions for 7 defendants (one left the state) filed 9/12/64.

JACKSON

STEVEN HOLBROOK V. STATE OF MISS.

SOREN SORENSEN V. STATE OF MISS.

(S. D. MISS.)

8/20/64 - Two defendants accompanied a Negro attempting to register to circuit clerk's office in Hinds County Courthouse in Jackson. Holbrook took several photographs inside courthouse, was immediately arrested. While waiting on a bench to hear the charges against Holbrook, Sorensen was arrested and charged with disorderly conduct, as was Holbrook; both in violation of House Bill 777, passed by Miss. Legislature 5/28/64. Bond for each defendant was fixed at $1,000.

Petition for removal filed 8/21/64, along with motion for reasonable bail.

2. STATE OF MISS. V. RUFUS ERIC MORTON

STATE OF MISS. V. STEPHEN L. SMITH

(S. D. MISS.) Criminal Action _____

7/15/64 - Morton (Negro) and Smith (white) were driving from Jackson to Canton, Miss., with two other persons, both Negro. Smith was driving a rented pickup truck, carrying voter registration material for use in Greenville and Greenwood. Outside of Jackson the city police stopped the vehicle and gave Smith a summons for improper license, later nolle prossed by city attorney.

Truck was later followed and stopped by an unidentified person who refused to state his official capacity. Smith received a speeding summons; the two Negro passengers were told to walk back to Jackson (over 10 miles); Smith and Morton were then taken in separate cars to the Madison County jail in Canton, after Morton had been kicked, punched, and beaten with a gun by two of the Miss. officials. Smith, in police car, was beaten with gun and flashlight.

7/16/64 - At arraignment in Madison Cty. J. P. Court, Morton was charged with interfering with an officer and resisting arrest; Smith, with reckless driving and resisting arrest. Released on $150 bond pending trial. Petitions for removal filed, in Morton's on 7/29, Smith's on 7/29..

MARKS

STATE OF MISS. V. ROSE KENDRICK (Marks Bigamy Case)

(N. D. MISS.) Criminal Action DCR 6456

8/4/64 - Defendant attended a meeting for Marks residents and agreed to house summer project people(which she did). 8/15/64, the sheriff and his deputy called on her and told her to be at the county courthouse later that morning. The county attorney (Quitman County) told her she had remarried without a divorce and would be put in the penitentiary for 10 years. On 8/19, she was arrested for bigamy at her home. Bail was set at $500; LCDC volunteer Tonachel waived a hearing and on 8/20 filed a removal petition, along with writ of habeas corpus. Judge Clayton granted the latter, fixing bail at $300, which was raised. Mrs. Kendrick was released 8/21. Removal pending; bigamy charge seems unfounded, since her first spouse has been absent for more than seven successive years.

McCOMB

1. PERCY McGHEE V. CITY OF MAGNOLIA (S. D. MISS.)

McGhee, a Negro COFO volunteer, was arrested for loitering 8/22/64 by the Sheriff of Pike County, while drinking a Coca-Cola in the county courthouse. Released on $55 bond; removal petition filed 8/27/64. No answer.

2. STATE OF MISS. V. WILLIE JOHN DILLON (S. D. MISS.)

Dillon, a Negro resident of Pike County who lives just outside the city limits of McComb, Mississippi, heard an explosion (dynamite blasting cap - the dynamite failed to explode) on the front lawn of his home at approximately 4:00 a.m., August 28, 1964. He called the FBI and the Sheriff of Pike County, R. R. Warren.

When the sheriff arrived in response to Dillon's call, he noticed a car on which Dillon had been working on the front lawn (car belonged to a summer volunteer). Sheriff Warren then arrested Dillon for stealing electricity (having noticed a wire running from the electric post behind Mr. Dillon's house to a light in the yard) and operating a garage without a license.

Mr. Dillon was held literally incommunicado until 3:00 p.m. the same afternoon, at which time he was tried, convicted and sentenced to a total of 9 months in jail and fine of $600. He was not allowed to see or speak with counsel or his wife. Indeed, the sheriff and county attorney conspired to prevent counsel from seeing or speaking with Mr. Dillon.

Petition for removal filed in federal district court 9/19/64.

3. STATE OF MISS. V. ROY LEE (S. D. MISS.)

Roy Lee, a 23-year-old Negro resident of McComb, Miss., was arrested August 15, 1964 and charged with obstructing justice, threatening the life of a policeman, and disturbing the peace.

He had gone to the scene of the bombing of a Negro-owned grocery store located approximately two blocks from his home at about 12:50 a.m. August 15, 1964. When he arrived on the scene he fell to his knees and began praying aloud, "Lord, when is it going to end . . . . " He was persuaded to leave the scene by his companions (COFO workers). He then went to the Freedom House where he calmed down. He went back to the scene a second time, and again began to pray aloud. A policeman known as "Big John" came toward him while he was on his knees, with a gun or club raised as if to strike Lee. The COFO workers covered Lee with their bodies, imploring the police officer not to strike him. They again took him back to the Freedom House, where he discovered he had lost his house show. As he was returning down the street looking for his house shoe, two police officers approached and arrested him.

Case removed August 24, 1964. Motion to remand filed September 1, 1964. Hearing on the motion scheduled September 11, 1964. On that date, Judge Cox continued the hearing, now scheduled for September 24th, Federal District Court, Biloxi, before Judge Mize.

MERIDIAN

1. CITY OF MERIDIAN V. FREDDIE LEE WATSON, ET AL

(S. D. MISS.) 9 Defendants

5/23/64 - Watson arrested while distributing leaflets outside Newberry's Dime Store urging boycott of downtown stores.

5/30/64 - Hosley arrested while distributing leaflets in front of Woolworth's and charged with "interfering a man's business." Released on $50 cash bond.

5/30/64 - 6 others arrested outside Woolworth's and Kress' after distributing literature. 3 defendants were charged with being "dangerous and suspicious." 3 others placed under arrest for "investigation."

MERIDIAN

FREDDIE LEE WATSON, cont.

5/31/64 - All released in jail.

5/30/64 - 1 defendant arrested in Woolworth's and charged with disorderly conduct.

6/1/64 - 8 defendants arraigned in Juvenile Court without counsel. Bond set at $50 per person. Trial set for 6/3/64, continued to 6/10/64, charges changed to "conduct likely to lead to breach of the peace." On 6/10/64, the morning of trial, petitions for removal filed Fed. Dist. Ct., S.D. Rejected because not filed in duplicate. State court tried and convicted d. fendants.

6/12/64 - habeas corpus petition filed Fed. Dist. Ct. and denied. Motion for t.r.o. enjoining city officials from executing sentences granted. Petitions for removal perfected. Motion to remand 6/30/64. Motion for stay pending appeal to 5th Circuit and notice of appeal to the 5th Cir. filed 7/14/64.

PASCAGOULA

PASCAGOULA REMOVAL CASES (S. D. MISS.)

62 persons arrested while attending a voter registration meeting 8/4/64 in Pascagoula. 55 charged with breach of the peace, 7 with possession of obscene pictures. County officials and Pascagoula police, after warning the previous week that voter registration meetings would be dispersed, arrived 50 strong, armed with revolvers, rifles and billy clubs, in bus and cars. Also had tear gas. About 40 whites were peacefully watching. At one point, police ordered the meeting to disband in 5 minutes. Upon refusal, all were jailed in Jackson County Farm Jail.

At 8/5 trial, counsel had only 30 minutes to confer with any of petitioners. Continuance granted until 8/10/64. Some released on bail, others stayed in jail.

8/11/64, petition for removal filed; amended petitions filed 8/25/64. Motion to remand filed 9/16/64. Hearing set for 9/23/64.

PHILADELPHIA

STATE OF MISS. V. SCHIFFMANN

Defendant arrested 9/14/64 during "Freedom Day" in Philadelphia. Charged with failure to obey officer. Out on $500 bond. Trial scheduled for 10/26. Removal drawn up.

RULEVILLE

M. C. PERRY V. CITY OF RULEVILLE

(N. D. MISS.) GCR 6459

Perry, 11th grade SNCC worker, arrested 8/15/64 for disturbing the peace when he failed to bring a parent with him to Ruleville Negro High School to discuss civil rights activities with principal. Unrepresented by counsel, he was convicted same day in Mayor's Ct. and sentenced to 30 days on the Sunflower County Farm and $100 fine.

RULEVILLE

M. C. PERRY, cont.

Incarcerated until 8/15, paid $500 bond pending appeal for trial de novo in Sunflower County Circuit Court. 8/24/64, petition for removal filed. No motion to remand received as yet.

STARKVILLE

RONALD BRIDGEFORTH V. CITY OF STARKVILLE

(N. D. MISS.) ECR 6458

8/13/64 Bridgeforth, white COFO worker, went to J. P. Ct. to pay a parking ticket. When told he had to be fingerprinted and mugged, he asked to see the law, and was told there was no copy there. He asked for legal advice, paid the fine, but was jailed.

8/14, $500 bail paid and judge held Bridgeforth in contempt of court and sentenced him to $50 fine and one day in jail. Counsel not notified of hearing, which was 8/15. Judge asked if he would be fingerprinted and mugged. When he asked to see a lawyer, the judge held him in contempt again, sentenced him to $50 and another day in jail.

8/16 - fingerprinted and mugged when jailer told him his lawyer knew about it. Fines totalling $100 and $23 costs were paid. Trial set for 8/18 on charge of refusing to be fingerprinted and mugged.

Petition for removal filed August , 1964.

B. Affirmative Federal Cases

ABERDEEN

STATE OF MISS. V. WARREN GALLOWAY, ET AL

(N. D. MISS.) 3616 (J) (C)

Sept. 5, 1964, 19 Negro citizens of Aberdeen, Monroe County, Miss., entered Tom's Restaurant and requested service. Upon refusal to go around to back entrance, police were called. Defendants arrested and charged with trespassing. All released on bail. Trial set for October 7, 1964, Municipal Court. Complaint under CRA to enjoin prosecution of defendants and further discrimination in restaurant's facilities to be filed Sept. 21, 1964.

DREW

GEORGE WINTER, ET AL V. W. O. WILLFORD, MAYOR, ET AL

(N. D. MISS.) Civil Action GC 6448

8/14/64, a Friday, Mayor Willford of Drew issued a proclamation that at the end of the working day all civil rights workers be taken into protective custody and held in city jail until the next normal working day of police. Motion filed 8/ /64 Fed. Dist. Ct. for t.r.o. and order to show cause why t.r.o. shouldn't be permanent.

Winter and three others who intended to stay the night at a Negro woman's home were seized and held without charge overnight. Hearing held 8/27/64.

8/28/64 Drew Board of Aldermen met, decided to rescind the 8/14 proclamation, which the mayor did by order 8/31. Judge Clayton dismissed the complaint.

JACKSON

TOM ATKINS, ET AL V. ELITE RESTAURANT, ET AL

(S. D. MISS.) Civil Action No._____

Class action under Title II, Civil Rights Act, to enjoin Elite, two Primos, Lindy's Pancake House, People's Cafe, and Mayflower Cafe - Jackson restaurants, from refusing service to Negroes. Each of the restaurants was tested on 7/30/64. Suit asks $100,000 damages from each defendant, in addition to costs; filed 8/ /64. No answer.

COFO, ET AL V. MISSISSIPPI FAIR COMMISSION (S. D. MISS.)

Suit arose from Commission's failure to rent Coliseum to COFO for August 18th folk festival. White and colored entrances with signs maintained. Motion for t.r.o. filed 8/6/64 seeking preliminary and permanent injunction against further segregation in Coliseum. Hearing 8/14/64. Affidavits requested and submitted. Judge granted injunction against further segregation of premises but denied COFO's request to rent.

JACKSON

EVERS, ET AL V. PERMANENT CAPITOL COMMISSION

(S. D. MISS.) Civil Action No. 3624(J)(C)

Class action filed 8/28/64 calling for desegregation of facilities in state office buildings and capitol in Jackson--rest rooms, water fountains, lunch counters, etc. No answer filed or hearing date set yet. Interrogatories due 10/21/64.

II.

CRIMINAL ACTIONS IN STATE COURTS

ABERDEEN

1. CITY OF ABERDEEN V. H. L. CLAY
2. CITY OF ABERDEEN V. WILLIE FEARS
3. CITY OF ABERDEEN V. J. J. MOORE
4. CITY OF ABERDEEN V. GEORGE ROBINSON

Defendants, residents of Aberdeen, arrested Sept. 5th, shortly after 19 others had been arrested, at Tom's restaurant. Clay charged with (a) resisting arrest; (b) impeding an officer; (c) public drunkenness; and (d) assault upon an officer. Out on total of $1350 bond.

Fears charged with obstructing justice;
Moore charged with "following too closely;"
Robinson charged with "following too closely" and improper muffler.

Trial for all 4 scheduled 9:00 a.m. Sept. 23, '64 in J. P. Court of Aberdeen, Judge J. H. Miller.

BATESVILLE

STATE OF MISS. V. WASHINGTON

STATE OF MISS. V. PALMER

Two COFO workers arrested 9/16/64 in Batesville, charged with speeding and passing stop sign. Have been consistent arrests by same policeman, so decided to contest. Bond set at $150 each. Trial police court, Batesville 9/17/64; out-of-state attorney rejected. Defendant Washington convicted and sentenced to 100 days and $500 fine. Bond set at $2,000--later reduced to $1,700. Palmer sentenced to 90 days, $500 fine--bond set $2200, reduced to $1400. During trial Washington was summarily held in contempt for consulting with counsel with judge's permission. Fined $50 and one day.

Benjamin Graham, in courtroom, also held in contempt, for "sneering" in courtroom. Bond set at $500. Morton Thomas, another COFO worker, arrested at courtroom and charged with "conspiring to breach peace," $500 bond set.

Negotiating with prosecutor. Trying to raise bail, as unlikely motion to reduce bail will work. Will probably remove. Incredible events surrounding trial.

BILOXI

STATE OF MISS. V. JAMES BLACK (Municipal Ct., Biloxi)

8/22/64 - Defendant went with 4 teen-age Negro girls to Baker's Restaurant in Biloxi to test CR Act. They sat at counter, were refused service and told to leave. When they didn't move, police were summoned and Black arrested for trespass. Released on $300 bond. At 8/27 trial in municipal ct., decision reserved pending brief and/or oral argument. Brief noted 9/4. Case still pending. Judge has reserved decision pending U. S. Supreme Court's decision in Maddox.

CANTON

1. STATE OF MISS. V. GEORGE WASHINGTON, JR.

(J. P. Ct., Madison County)

9/17/64 - Defendant arrested, charged with carrying concealed weapon. Out on $750 bond. Trial set for 9/21/64.

2. STATE OF MISS. V. JOE LEE WATTS

(J. P. Ct., Madison County)

Watts is charged with arson in the 8/11/64 burning of the Mt. Pleasant Church in Canton. State highway police say Watts confessed the next morning; Watts was held incommunicado in Madison County Jail several days. At 8/31/64 preliminary hearing Watts was bound over for grand jury action and released on $500 bail.

CARTHAGE

STATE OF MISS. V. CLYDE HARVEY

(Circuit Court, Leake County)

Harvey, a Leake County resident arrested 7/10/64, was charged with possession of intoxicating liquor in his home--had 2 cans of beer from party held for white summer volunteer workers. Was released same day by J. P., however no trial was held nor any plea entered. He returned to J. P. 3 times to find out what his penalty was and was told not to come back any more. Arrested 9/9/64 and jailed. No bond set, and officials claim he let time for filing notice of appeal lapse. He claims he never had a trial.

Writ of oram obis filed circuit court Leake County 9/19/64.

MADDEN (NEAR CARTHAGE)

STATE OF MISS. V. HEININGER

STATE OF MISS. V. POLACHEK (J. P. Ct., Leake County)

Polachek went to the Madden Clinic 7/30/64 - left, after being called a "nigger lover," because of the hostile atmosphere. Returned next day with Rev. Heininger, NCC minister; they were assaulted by Dr. Thaggard and about ten others. Rev. Heininger knocked unconscious, Heininger and Polachek both prevented from leaving. County constables

STATE OF MISS. V. HEININGER, POLACHEK, cont.

arrived and arrested them for disturbing the peace. They were put in Leake County Jail in Carthage, held a couple of hours without medical attention, released on $100 bail each .

Trial set for 8/27/64, but continued. Prosecutor told Sokolow, President's Committee, that he wasn't interested in pressing charges. No definite offer from prosecutor yet. Must be checked on. Petition for civil suit drawn up.

COLUMBUS

CITY OF COLUMBUS V. STUART ERWIN

(J. P. Ct., 2nd Dist., Lowndes County)

Erwin arrested 9/13/64, charged with improper driver's license. Trial set for 9/17/64 but county attorney "was ill." Case continued to 9/22.

DREW

STATE OF MISS. V. FRED R. MILLER and EDWARD B. WILLIAMS

(Circuit Court, Sunflower County.)

Defendants arrested 7/30/64 in Drew, for allegedly distributing handbills without a permit, though arresting officer had only seen them put some in a pickup truck. On 7/31 they were convicted in Mayor's Court, sentenced to $100 fines and 30 days at the Sunflower County Work Farm. Appeal bonds of $200 each were filed for trial de novo in County Court.

GREENWOOD

CITY OF GREENWOOD V. PETER KAISER

Kaiser was arrested 9/8/64, charged with interfering with an officer. Released on $200 bail 9/9/64. At trial 9/14, pled not guilty and was acquitted.

HATTIESBURG

1. STATE OF MISS. V. LAWRENCE GUYOT

(Supreme Court of Mississippi)

Guyot was arrested in Hattiesburg 1/24/64, charged with contributing to the delinquency of a minor. Convicted and sentenced to 6 months and $500 fine. County and Circuit courts affirmed conviction. Appeal filed Miss. Supreme Court about July 22, 1964. Brief due 10/1/64.

2. STATE OF MISS V. HENRY HUEY BAILEY

(County Court, Forrest County)

Bailey, a COFO worker, was arrested 9/9/64 in Hattiesburg on 5 counts of false pretenses, in that he did "wilfully, unlawfully and feloniously, with intent to defraud, make, issue, and deliver to Lawrence Hession, Sr. for value" 5 checks without sufficient funds. Arraignment held 9/10.

STATE OF MISS. V. HEININGER, POLACHEK, cont.

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HATTIESBURG - STATE OF MISS. V. HENRY HUEY BAILEY, cont.

Despite the fact that the name of the person signing the checks was "Henry L. Bailey," and defendant's name is Henry Huey Bailey, and despite the totally different handwriting of defendant from that on the checks, he was bound over for grand jury action in October. Bail of $1500 per count set--$7,500--and Bailey remains in jail. Have requested preliminary hearing, scheduled week of 9/21/64.

INDIANOLA

1. IN RE THEO HARRISON

8/28/64 - Eight juveniles arrested at Negro high school and charged with disturbing peace, entering school grounds. Charges against three dismissed; four declared delinquent, placed on probation for 6 months. Harrison, a 12-yr-old, was adjudged delinquent and ordered to training school 8/28/64. Juvenile court judge to be contacted re length of sentence. Further action to be taken.

2. CITY OF INDIANOLA V. GEORGE LEE JONES

(Circuit Court, Sunflower County)

7/12/64 Jones, local Negro participant in COFO Indianola project, was taken by local Negro policeman to see the police chief in chief's office, where local Negro policeman told him, "We all gwine whup yo ass." Jones asked to get a drink of water and fled, hiding out for a few days. 7/17, officer arrested him downtown, charged him with running from arrest, and jailed him.

7/18, not allowed to use telephone, tried and convicted in municipal court, sentenced to 60 days on county farm. Appeal bond filed 7/24, Jones released pending trial in Circuit Court, Sunflower County.

3. CITY OF INDIANOLA V. GEORGE MARSHALL

(J. P. Ct., Sunflower County)

Marshall arrested 9/10/64 in Indianola, charged with "leafleting" without a permit. Released on $100 bail and trial set for 9/17. Bail forfeited, since Marshall did not appear. Effort underway to effect a settlement if possible; forfeiture usually closes a case under Miss. practice and procedure. To check.

JACKSON

JAMES EDWARD JACKSON V. SUPERINTENDENT, PARCHMAN STATE PENITENTIARY

(N. D. MISS.)

6/26/64 - Defendant arrested in Columbus, charged with distributing literature without permit, while passing out leaflets describing Civil Rights Act. 6/29/64, about to be released on bail, he was taken to Lowndes County Circuit Court. In June, 1962 Jackson had been convicted on two counts each of burglary and larceny. He served one two-year sentence and was released 3/12/64 from Parchman. Second sentence was "retired to the file,"

JACKSON

JAMES EDWARD JACKSON V. SUPT. PARCHMAN PEN., cont.

a quaint Columbus custom common with Negro defendants. Judge Green unretired the prior sentence, and Jackson was taken back to Parchman.

Petition for writ of habeas corpus.

LAUREL

LESTER McKINNIE V. CLYDE NIX, CHIEF OF POLICE, ET AL

(Circuit Court, Jones County) (S. D. MISS. Civil Act. 1912(H)

McKinnie was arrested for breach of the peace while standing peacefully in the bus terminal in Laurel in May, 1962. Convicted in police court, he was sentenced to 4 months imprisonment and $200 fine, without counsel. Appeal to Jones County Circuit Court was ruled "not duly filed" although it had been sent by certified mail four days prior to the last date for perfecting an appeal. Further appeal to the circuit court dismissed for lack of prosecution, since it was not perfected by the filing of an assignment of error as required by the rules. McKinnie left Laurel, and upon return was picked up 7/5/64 and detained in the Laurel County Jail. 7/15/64 Judge Cox dismissed a petition for habeas on the grounds that state remedies had not been exhausted. Leave to file petition for writ of error coram nobis filed 7/18/64 in the Supreme Court of Mississippi. Agreement worked out to release McKinnie and drop charges on condition he permanently leave town. McKinnie now out of state. Order dismissing charges to be obtained.

MAGNOLIA

STATE OF MISS. V. MELVIN PARKER (Peeping Tom case)

(Circuit Court, Pike County)

Grand jury convenes in October; Parker has been in jail for months under $5,000 bail. Among issues is illegal search. Parker allegedly peeped in home of a white woman in Magnolia.

MILESTON

COUNTY OF HOLMES V. DOW HAMER

(J. P. Ct., 1st Dist., Holmes County)

Hamer, a COFO worker, was arrested 9/13/64 and charged with (1) driving without a license; (2) improper lights on car; and (3) vagrancy. Pleaded nolo on the first two counts, not guilty on third. At trial 9/18/64 in Lexington, found guilty on all three counts and sentenced to 30 days in jail and $250 fine on count 1; $5.00 fine on count 2, and 30 days in jail on count 3. Appeal bonds set at $400 on count 1, $50 on count 2, $500 on count 3; total, $950. COFO in Mileston is trying to raise money for appeal.

MOSS POINT

1. STATE OF MISS. V. BARBARA FAY KELLY

(Municipal Court, Moss Point)

8/18/64 Barbara Fay, a 16-year-old Negro girl of Moss Point, took laundry to Scotch Washeteria, which has two entrances; entered the "white" side and put her laundry in a machine. A white man came up and inquired of her "Haven't you made a mistake?" to which she replied, "No, I would like to wash right here." After more discussion (while her laundry was washing in the machine), police were called. Two officers arrived and asked if she "wouldn't like to go around to the colored entrance." She answered no. They then arrested her for trespassing on private property. Bond was set at $300, trial set for 9/21/64 in Municipal Court, Moss Point. Removal contemplated.

2. STATE OF MISS. V. NETTIE SELLERS, ET AL

(Circuit Court, Jackson County)

8/26/64 Defendants, six Negroes, were arrested while peacefully picketing the Scotch Washeteria in Moss Point and taken to the city jail, where they were denied permission to notify next of kin and/or counsel. At police court trial the same day, without counsel, they were charged individually with failing to obey an officer and obstructing the public way, and were summarily convicted. 8/27/64 after considerable harassment, bonds of $250 each were accepted and defendants were released pending trial de novo in County Court. Removal contemplated.

NATCHEZ

CITY OF NATCHEZ V. JESSIE BERNARD, JANET JERMOTT, and CARVER ("CHICO") NEBLETT

(Municipal Court, Natchez)

Defendants arrested and charged with vagrancy 9/11/64. Charges clearly without basis. Released in $100 bail each, 9/11. Trial set for 9/18, petitions for removal prepared. 9/17 police justice and city attorney decided to dismiss the charges because "the city did not have enough to go on." Return of bail sought.

STARKVILLE

CITY OF STARKVILLE V. STEPHEN C. FRASER

(Mayor's Court, Starkville)

8/1/64 white COFO worker arrested for speeding and jailed. Police chief's brother told prisoners "Kill him." Released $15 bail. At 8/3 trial, mayor continued case to 8/10. Again continued indefinitely.

YAZOO CITY

CITY OF YAZOO CITY V. LENORA THURMAN (Circuit Ct., Yazoo Cty.)

Defendant arrested 11/3/63, charged with distributing handbills without permit. 11/4/63 trial in municipal court, convicted and sentenced to $100 fine and 15 days in jail. Released on $100 appeal bond pending trial de novo in Yazoo County Court. No trial date set yet.

III.

FREEDOM DEMOCRATIC PARTY

INJUNCTION

STATE EX REL JOE T. PATTERSON V. EDWIN KING, ET AL

(Chancery Court, Hinds County)

8/12/64 - Chancery Court of Hinds County issued ex parte injunction without notice enjoining ten named defendants, delegates and alternates of the FDP, from using the word "Democratic" in party's name and from otherwise acting as representatives of the party. The complaint alleged FDP had not complied with state law governing organization of political parties. Defendants served five or six days later. August 22, 1964, hearing date set September 14, eve of delegates' departure for Atlantic City. Answer and motion to dissolve and for an accelerated hearing filed chancery court. Court modified so much of injunction as prohibited delegates from going to Atlantic City.

September 14th, hearing date rescheduled for October 5, 1964 chancery court. Full evidence of exclusion of Negroes from regular Democratic Party will be offered.

McCOMB

STATE OF MISS. V. LEE GARRETT, JOHN & MARY DOE

Ex parte injunction issued by chancery court of McComb September 1964 enjoining all persons from acting in the name of or on behalf of FDP. Motion to dissolve being filed. Hearing set Dec. 14, 1964.

IV.

CLOSED FILE

(Incomplete Compilation)

A. TRAFFIC CASES - 38

1. Fines paid 18

2. Settlement reached, including fine 18

3. Dismissed, or nolle prossed 2

B. CRIMINAL CASES - 18

1. Convictions 2

2. Settlement reached 9

3. Dismissed, nolle prossed, or acquitted 7

C. INVESTIGATION OF HARASSMENT - 17

(Includes bombings, illegal evictions, rents raised in public housing, unfair tax assessments, threats, police brutality, non-payment of social security benefits.)

D. INVESTIGATION, PERSONAL SERVICE RENDERED - 8

(Re: Insurance, property liens)

E. INVESTIGATION, LEGAL ADVICE TENDERED TO COFO - 12

F. INVESTIGATION, BUT NO CLIENT AUTHORIZATION TO PROCEED - 6

PENDING FILE

A. INVESTIGATION, PUBLIC FACILITIES SUIT CONTEMPLATED - 10

1. Schools 4

2. Other 6

B. CIVIL DAMAGES SUIT ARISING FROM POLICE ACTION (in connection with closed or pending case) CONTEMPLATED - 8

C. CRIMINAL CHARGES ARISING FROM POLICE ACTION (in connection with closed or pending case) - 2

MISSISSIPPI LEGISLATURE REGULAR SESSION 1964

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE
FOR
HOUSE BILL NO. 546

AN ACT TO PROHIBIT THE UNLAWFUL PICKETING OF STATE BUILDINGS, COURTHOUSES, PUBLIC STREETS, AND SIDEWALKS.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI:

SECTION 1. It shall be unlawful for any person, singly or in concert with others, to engage in picketing or mass demonstrations in such a manner as to obstruct or interfere with free ingress or egress to and from any public premises, State property, county or municipal courthouses, city halls, office buildings, jails, or other public buildings or property owned by the State of Mississippi or any county or municipal government located therein or with the transaction of public business or administration of justice therein or thereon conducted or so as to obstruct or interfere with free use of public streets, sidewalks or other public ways adjacent or contiguous thereto.

SECTION 2. Any person guilty of violating this act shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction thereof, shall be fined not more than Five Hundred Dollars ($500.00), or imprisoned in jail not more than six (6) months, or both such fine and imprisonment.

SECTION 3. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its passage.

kw

OCT 17 1962

PHS Indian Hospital
Talihina, Oklahoma
Oct 10, 1962

Congress of Racial Equality
38 Park Row
New York 38, New York

Dear Sirs;

My husband and I, both New Yorkers have recently moved to Talihina Oklahoma where we live on the campus of an Indian Hospital. Last semester I was a student at Queens College, and I am now attending Tulsa University. I would be very interested to know if you could tell me of any CORE, or similar activity in the Tulsa area.

I first picked up your "Corelator" from the Religion and Philosophy department here, and would like to know how I could get your newsletter thank you.

Yours truly,
Mrs. Irene Glasser

Mary
ans Oct 17
MH

Oher

October 17, 1962

Mrs. Irene Glasser
PHS Indian Hospital
Talihina, Oklahoma

Dear Mrs. Glasser:

Thank you for your letter. We are always glad to hear from people hoping to continue "CORE-work" wherever they are.

We do not at present have any CORE chapters in Oklahoma. If you think that interest could be stirred up at Tulsa please let us know, and we will do all we can to help. Meanwhile, I am bringing your letter to the attention of the field secretary for the Oklahoma area, Mary Hamilton, She will be in touch with you.

I am adding your name to our national list, from which you will receive the CORElator.

Sincerely,

Marcia McKenna
Secretary
for
James T. McCain
Director of Organization

msm

October 17, 1962

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PHS Indian Hospital
Talihina, Oklahoma

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I am mailing your name to our national list, from which you will receive the CORE Ledger.

Sincerely,

Marcia McKenna
Secretary
for
James T. McCain
Director of Organization

mmm

Thank you for your letter; we are glad to hear from people interested in keeping up theta interest

October 17, 1962

Mrs. Irene Glasser
PHS Indian Hospital
Talihina, Oklahoma

Dear Mrs. Glasser:

I have just been informed that you are interested in developing activity in Oklahoma. This is very good news particularly since CORE does not have any chapters in Oklahoma and so much work needs to be done in that state.

I am on my way to Fort Smith, Arkansas, which is not too far from Talihina. I expect to be in Fort Smith by October 22 and would appreciate it if you would contact me there so that we can make arrangements to meet. I am also enclosing some CORE informational material I thought you might be interested in reading.

Thank you so much for contacting us. My address in Fort Smith is: % Mrs. R. Watson
2011 N. 29th St.
Fort Smith, Arkansas

Yours for Freedom NOW!

Miss Mary Hamilton
CORE Field Secretary

a national organization with affiliated local groups working

CONGRESS OF RACIAL EQUALITY

CORE

to abolish racial discrimination by direct, nonviolent methods

38 PARK ROW
NEW YORK 38, NEW YORK
COrtlandt 7-6270

James Farmer
national director
Richard Haley
associate
Gordon Carey
assistant
Carl Rachlin, Esq.
general counsel

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Eugene E. Frazier
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Roland B. Gittelsohn
Sidney Hollander
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E. Stanley Jones
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Martin Luther King
Douglas Levin
David Livingston
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A. J. Muste
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Jackie Robinson
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treasurer
James Peck
CORElator editor

STAFF
Norman Hill
program director
James McCain
director of organization
Marvin Rich
community relations director

March 16,1964

Dear Richard:

I am sending you some affiliation blanks to have in your office if you should need them for staff members in your area.

We received a telephone call this morning from the chairman of Tulsa, Oklahoma CORE chapter. He asked us to send an affiliation blanks to him, but I referred him to you since Ike Reynolds has charge of that area. We feel that a field secretary should visit with new groups before we allow them to START functioning. This we believe will help control some of the problems we are now having with many of the new groups in formation.

The chairman of Tulsa CORE chapter is--Milton T. Goodwin; 2460 N. Boston Place or P.O.Box 6158, Tulsa, Oklahoma.- Telephone-LU- 3-1631.

I typed this letter myself, so overlook anything you may find wrong with it. The best of everything as you get started in the area.

Sincerely,

James T. McCain

Haley

Tulsa CORE
P. O. Box 6158
Tulsa, Oklahoma
Lu 3-1631

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ATTN: Melton Goodwin

BANK OUT

Tulsa, Oklahoma April 12, 1964 Tulsa CORE launched a drive to have Negroes remove their money from the Segregated North Side State Bank of Tulsa. As of Friday April 10, several people had withdrawn their funds, including one person who withdrew $15,000. North Side State Bank is owned by R. J. Pleasant who owns and operates the segregate Apache shopping center in the Negro community where 87 CORE members have been arrested in the last two weeks, including 31 last Friday night at the Bordens Resturant owned by L. Borden. Mass picketing and sit-ins will continue and increase intensively at Apache Circle and other segregated business located in (North Tulsa) the Negro Community.

#########

a national organization with affiliated local groups working

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to abolish racial discrimination by direct, nonviolent methods

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Bishop F. D. Jordan
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treasurer
James Peck
CORElator editor
Gordon Carey
program director
James T. McCain
director of organization
Marvin Rich
community relations director

April 7, 1964

Tulsa, Okla.

Mr. Richhard Hal ey
2211 Dryades St.
New Orleans, La.

Dear Richard:

I ha ve found a very large and acted group here. The total membership is o ver 500 a nd l ast night over 300 people attened the regular CORE meeting. I've send Bruce money to come here from San Antonio and he's to arrive today. We will start workshops Saturday. I'll be back in New Orleans sometime Sunday but feel that I should return to Tulsa because the group is to large for one person to conduct ~~xxx~~ workshops along. I've written the national office asking that they arriange my travel back here ~~Tuesday~~ or Wednesday of next week.

I have to discuss some recently enacted laws with Ellie, so I'll be ready to leave wed

Ike

Ike Reynolds

Oklahoma.

The President name is L. L. Atwood. The general office is locate in El Segundo, Calif and the regional office is located in Downey, Calif. Please do this today.

Ike

Ike

April 14, 1964

James T. McCain
Dept of Organization
CORE
38 Park Row
New York 38, N. Y.

Dear Jim:

The group in Tulsa meets the requirements for affiliation and has submitted an application and their ten dollar fee. The letters were send to Gordon and must have gotten misplaced. I've enclosed another application and constitution.

The group has organiztional structure problems however, I feel they will be able to overcome these problems in a few weeks and recommend that they be affliated at the next such meeting.

Isaac Reynolds

Isaac Reynolds
Field Secretary

Holly

1. City Tulsa
2. Total Population 261,685 (1960)
3. What per of total population is the Negro 1/8 plus (12% approx. 30-35,000
4. What is the attitude of the Negro Community toward segregation very good
5. What type of segregation disturbes Negroes most city for employment - public accomodation
6. What places in city are segregated Restaurants - Jobs - Schools (defacto)
7. Are people interested in making a change yes
8. Are the schools segregated defacto
9. ~~Are the schools segregate~~
10. How many Negroes vote ~~6500~~ 4000
11. How many are register 9000 (which ones)
12. Is their a local or national civil rights organization in operation yes
13. Is their an minstierial association in the city yes
14. What is the attitude of the minsters Bad - with some expections
15. What is attitude of students very good
16. Is their a college in the city U of Tulsa
17. Would the students like to organize yes
18. Which Negro organization is the most respected CORE
19. Who is main contacts Milton Goudwin 2460 N Boston Pl.
20. Five most influential Negroes atty Goudwin, atty Black, Hall, Rev Hill
21. Can they be depend upon for cooperation atty Goudwin
22. How many Negroes are employedin non-traditional jobs 50-75
23. What is town major industry North American oil
24. Occupation of most Negroes labor, Teachers clerks etc
25. Attitude of the white community Un - aware
26. Type of action tobe applied Direct

Date April 14, 1964

By Hazel Reynolds
Field Secretary

TO: James McCain

FROM: Isaac Reynolds

SUBJECT: Monthly Report, April, 1964 re: Tulsa, Oklahoma

Bruce and I found a very large group in Tulsa, Oklahoma. The total membership is over three hundred members and it is still growing. Last night I attended the general membership meeting and gave a discourse on CORE. Several workshops on CORE's methods and nonviolence have been scheduled to start this week. Tonight we held our first workshop in the home of the chairman and things went off great. However, we will have to move to a large place to accommodate everyone. The ex-committee met before the workshop and it was decided that demonstrations would resume the next day. The next afternoon we watched the demonstrations and were forced to remove several people from the demonstrations because they didn't know how to conduct themselves. As a result of the conduct of some of the people, we set-up workshops for that night. The next day the demonstrations showed the excellent results of the workshops in the conduct of all the demonstrators. On Saturday we had the largest group to work with in a workshop since our arrival but because we had initially concentrated our efforts on training a small group which we were able to use in training a large group, the large group was able to have personal attention. At the meeting on Saturday afternoon we discussed the area the group would be more effective in. We decided that the area (North Tulsa - an all Negro area) where the group had been working would be the best place to put their efforts.

On April 8, 1964, Tulsa CORE launched a drive to have Negroes remove their money from the segregated North Side State Bank of Tulsa, located in North Tulsa. As of Friday, April 10, several people had withdrawn their funds from the bank, including one person who withdrew $15,000. North Side State Bank is owned by R. J. Pleasant who ownes and operates the segregated Apache Circle Shopping Center also in North Tulsa. In addition to the Money Out program at the bank, the group is picketing the bank and a number of stores in the shopping center and the Bordens Resturant, owned by L. Borden.

Friday night 87 persons were arrested at the Bordens Resturant. Mass picketing and sit-ins will go on because the number arrested Friday is only a small part of the people willing to go to jail. Their only problem at the present time is bond money. The city officials are not prepared and don't know how to handle the situation. They have been releasing the adults on their signature and the students in the custody of the lawyer or parents. In the past week we have been ordered by the court to stop demonstrating (Carl Rachlin has a copy of the order). However, a five year old child can see that the orders are illegal and demonstrations have gone on without the officials trying to enforce the orders.

The group is made up of people from a cross section of the Negro citizens and a few students from Tulsa University. The student group is very large and militant and I feel that they will keep the older people moving.

cc: R. Haley ✓
F. B. McKissick

[1964, April?]

ARCHIBALD HILL 407 NORTH DURLAND ST OKCTY

MILTON GOODMAN 123 1/2 NORTH GREENWOOD TUL

WOULD APPRECIATE INFORMATION ON , ONE . RECENT MARCH ON CAPITOL
TWO, DIFFERENCE OF OPINION BETWEEN TULSA AND OKLAHOMA CITY CORE GROUPS
THREE , YOUR EFFORTS TO APPLY NONVIOLENT PHILOSOPHY TO SETTLE
YOUR DIFFERENCES . WOULD LIKE DETAILED WRITTEN REPORT AT
EARLIEST CONVENIENCE

RICHARD HALEY SOUTHERN REGIONAL DIRECTOR
2211 DRYADES STREET

523 7204 CONGRESS OF RACIAL EQUALITY
CFN FURNISHED

copy

Southern office

C1964, April ?

CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS

CONGRESS OF RACIAL EQUALITY
TULSA CHAPTER

ARTICLE I. NAME

The name of the group shall be Tulsa Chapter, Congress of Racial Equality.

ARTICLE II. PURPOSE

The purpose for which this multiracial organization has been formed and for which it exists is to abolish discrimination based upon skin color, race, religion, or national origin, stressing nonviolent, direct action methods.

ARTICLE III. MEMBERSHIP

Any person vitally interested in the program of CORE and who meets its qualifications is eligible for membership in CORE.

(a) To become an ACTIVE member of CORE a person must (1) have been a probate member for two (2) weeks or a friend of CORE regularly attending meetings and demonstrations for four (4) weeks; 2) be sponsored by a member and be interviewed and instructed by the membership committee; 3) agree to abide by the Constitution and By-Laws and the CORE RULES for ACTION; 4) must be accepted by two thirds (2/3) vote, taken by secret ballot, of the members present and voting.

(b) The CORE group shall consist of ACTIVE MEMBERS, PROBATE MEMBERS and FRIENDS of CORE. A probate member is a person seeking full membership; a friend of CORE shall be a person who participates in demonstrations, tests and meetings or gives financial assistance, but does not desire to become an ACTIVE CORE member.

(c) All members of the Tulsa Chapter of CORE, whether they be active, probate, or friend of CORE must be or become a registered voter if qualified by the registration laws of the State of Oklahoma.

(d) Only ACTIVE members of CORE may hold office. Only ACTIVE members may vote for officers and on questions involving:

1) CORE policy
2) Acceptance of new members
3) Amendments or changes in Constitution and By-Laws.

(e) In matters involving direct action projects, all persons who have been accepted as participants by the CORE group are entitled to vote on procedures or tactics; only Active members may vote should the group consider that matters of policy are involved.

(f) Membership may be revoked if three members so request, and, after a hearing, two-thirds (2/3) of the members voting, vote for expulsion. Any person so expelled may appeal within thirty (30) days to the National Office for referral of his case to the next meeting of the National Action Council or Convention of CORE.

ARTICLE IV. DUES AND FINANCES

1. Dues shall be in the amount of $2.50 annually & 25¢ a month for active members.

2. The fiscal year shall begin on June 1st and ending on the following May 31st.

3. Additional funds shall be raised through fund appeals, donations, social and other activities.

ARTICLE V. OFFICERS AND ELECTIONS

1. The officers of the Tulsa Chapter of Core shall consist of Chairman, First Vice Chairman, Second Vice Chairman, Secretary, and Treasurer.

2. Officers of CORE shall be elected for a term of 24 months, and the election of officers shall be held on the second week of every 24th month.

3. The duties of the officers shall be as follows:

(a) The Chairman shall preside at meetings and shall have the authority to appoint committees, to appoint spokesmen for the group action projects, and to cast the deciding vote in the event of a tie.

(b) The First Vice-Chairman shall take over the duties of the Chairman in the event of his absence, and shall be Chairman of the Membership Committee. The Second Vice Chairman shall take over the duties of the Chairman and First Vice Chairman in their absence and he shall be the Chairman of the Projection Committee.

(c) The Secretary shall take minutes of meetings and keep a record of all CORE activities and shall be responsible for all correspondence.

(d) The Treasurer shall be responsible for keeping a financial record and making reports at regular intervals (preferably at every meeting), for keeping dues records and collecting dues from each member, and for maintaining a bank account and issuing checks. Both the Chairman and the Treasurer will be responsible for signing all checks issued.

4. Notice of elections must be sent to the membership at least two weeks before the said election, and two notifications are preferable.

5. A Nominating Committee appointed by the Chairman shall prepare a slate of officers. Additional nominations may be made from the floor. Election shall be by secret ballot. A plurality (~~xxxxxxxx~~) of votes cast shall constitute an election.

6. There must be a quorum present before action can be taken on any matter which requires the vote of active members only. A quorum shall consist of two-thirds (2/3) of the members in good standing.

7. In the event an office becomes vacant it shall be filled by Special Election, unless a regular election will be held in six weeks. In the latter case the Chairman may appoint a person to fill an unexpired term.

ARTICLE VI. MEETINGS

1. CORE meetings are not open to the public and only Active members, probate members, friends of CORE and individuals invited by a member have the right to attend. During discussion on any application by a probate member for full membership, all persons not active members in good standing shall be asked to leave the room.

2. The distribution of political and/or religious literature and the literature of other groups is prohibited immediately before, during or immediately after CORE meetings and demonstrations. However, any representative of another organization invited to speak before CORE may distribute the literature of the organization he represents.

ARTICLE VII. AMENDMENTS

Notice of changes in this Constitution must be sent to the membership for two consecutive weeks before such changes are to be voted upon. Amendments shall be incorporated into this Constitution upon approval by two-thirds (2/3) of the members voting.

CORE SOUTHERN OFFICE
2211 Dryades Street
New Orleans, Louisiana 70113

May 9, 1964

Tulsa CORE
Mr. Milton Goodman, Chairman
123½ north Greenwood
Tulsa, Oklahoma

Dear Mr. Goodman:

You may or maynot have heard directly from the CORE National Office of recent date, but you may be sure that the story of Tulsa CORE is a familiar one at 38 Park Row in New York City. We are all very proud of the sweeping moves made by Tulsa CORE of recent date. You seem to have the beginnings of a great campaign; full speed ahead!

This office may be able to help in any of the following ways: routing field secretaries your way when there is urgent need; supplying literature; explaining or clarifying problems of national policy; getting you in contact with other chapters in the region, and with the regional representatives. Incidentally, the South-Central Regional Representatives are Julia Lewis of Lexington, Kentucky and Oretha Castle of New Orleans. Of course, the office is ready to help in any way that you may need, when this is possible.

Isaac Reynolds told me of Tulsa CORE's plan to start its membership campaign this weekend. I would like very much to be there for its beginning, but am tied to a commitment either to Tallahassee, Florida or Canton, Mississippi at that time. However, I'm anxious to visit Tulsa; if you could suggest a later date when I might help that campaign or some other part of your program, please let me know.

One suggestion. Even though you're presently involved in public accommodations, I hope you have assigned someone to begin to collect figures on certain areas of employment such as salesmen for bread, milk, soft drinks and beer. Mass distribution items such as these are good targets for employment campaigns.

Best wishes,

Richard Haley
Director, CORE Southern Office

June 18, 1964

Southern Regional Office
c/o Richard Haley, Director
2211 Dryades
New Orleans, Louisiana

Dear Mr. Haley:

There is need of my part to apologize to you for not answering your night letter, although I did not receive it until three days later.

I am pleased to know that you are considerate, fair minded and working in the best interest of C.O.R.E.

First, let me explain my reasons for delay in answering. Having been fired by my employer, Sears Roebuck, for actions which they did not consider important, such as picketing City Hall, places of public accommodations, and demonstrations, I have been busy seeking employment. I have also had extremely time consuming domestic problems involving family affairs. These problems have been removed and I am in full swing again, devoting time and energy toward the goals of C.O.R.E.

I am aware that you have received reports of the march that was held in Oklahoma City. I would prefer to make this report a point of clarification and not in defense of any and all concerned.

The purpose of the march was and is to push for a statewide public accommodations law and to pressure the legislature for a F.E.P.C. Bill. The march was originally scheduled for the first part of May, but had to be re-scheduled for the first week in June because of a lack of co-ordination and solidification of all the civil rights groups in the state who were to participate.

It has been, and still is, our contention that any program pertinent to civil rights that is addressed to the state capital, which is Oklahoma City, and those participating are willing to comply and operate under the disciplinary and structure of C.O.R.E. and we would cooperate if feasible. The Tulsa Chapter was in charge of the program in Oklahoma City.

Our intentions also were to draw public opinion and to law groundwork to help establish more C.O.R.E. chapters in the state. We did not arbitrarilly mis-use any other chapters in the state of infringe upon them.

All of the above mentioned misunderstandings have been corrected and settled by myself and the Oklahoma City leadership, and we have settled down to spearhead a united front against discrimination and prejudice.

In answer to the correspondence about the lawyers, the attorneys had some eight members and others who are not even members of C.O.R.E. to deliberately and maliciously attempt to discredit me over a personal law suit that was indirectly

acute, but did result from C.O.R.E. activity. They (the two attorneys) had assumed they were relieved of duty.

This damage has been done by our attorney's son, and a radical character who took it upon themselves to make unauthorized telephone calls plus false accusations. Disciplinary actions are underway to rectify what has been done illegally.

If you need any further details, I will be most happy to supply them.

Respectfully yours,

Milton T. Goodwin

Milton T. Goodwin
President

MTG/gf

June 10, 1964

Mr. Isaac Reynolds
1003 N. Colorado
Midland, Texas

Dear Ike,

I asked the chairmen of the Oklahoma City and Tulsa groups to send me reports of their donnybrook last weekend. Haven't heard from either yet. If you get there before I do, please investigate thoroughly.

Your letter was acharming little missive just bubbling over with information about the heat, the places you intend to go a nd the meeting you intend to have. It left me a little curious about what has been going on since you arrrived at Midland.

Sincerely,

Richard

RH/ds

June 15, 1964

Tulsa CORE
c/o Milton Goodman, Chairman
123½ N. Greenwood
Tulsa, Oklahoma

Dear Mr. Goodman:

Several days ago I sent a night letter to you asking for the details of the alleged disagreement between the Tulsa and Oklahoma CORE groups. To date I have received no word from you on this matter.

I would suggest that it is a good policy in conflict situations to get the facts down in writing while they are still frest in your mind. Such a record frequently takes on great value as time passes and the situation becomes hazy. I would also suggest that it is good policy to avoid the possibility of antagonizing people unnecessarrly by postponding or overlooking acknowledgement of such communications. I, myself may assume that you have been extremely busy; in another case someone else may assume the oversight is deliberate.

What I actually hope is that your two groups have been able to settle your difference without any assistance from the national staff. Such a settlement would be in the best tradition of local autonomy, democratic procedure and the spirit of non-violence--all principles which stand very high in CORE philosophy and organization. If such is not the case at this writing, I strongly urge that you take steps toward an immediate settlement. Continuation of such internal strife would most likely move from the ironical to the ridiculous and finally to the unacceptable.

I would be very interested to receive any comments from you on this matter.

Sincerely,

Richard Haley

RH/ds
cc Jim McCain

June 15, 1964

Oklahoma CORE Interest Group
c/o Archibald Hill, Chairman
497 N. Durland
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

Dear Members:

Several days ago I sent a night letter to you asking for the details of the alleged disagreement between the Tulsa and Oklahoma CORE groups. To date I have received no word from you on this matter.

I would suggest that it is a good policy in conflict situations to get the facts down in writing while they are still fresh in your mind. Such a record frequently takes on great value as time passes and the situation becomes hazy. I would also suggest that it is good policy to avoid the possibility of antagonizing people unnecessaryly by postponding or overlooking acknowledgement of such communications. I, myself may assume that you have been extremely busy; in another case someone else may assume the oversight is deliberate.

What I actually hope is that your two groups have been able to settle your difference without any assistance from the national staff. Such a settlement would be in the best tradition of local autonomy, democratic procedure and the spirit of non-violence--all principles which stand very high in CORE philosophy and organization. If such is not the case at this writing, I strongly urge that you take steps toward an immediate settlement. Continuation of such internal strife would most likely move from the ironical to the ridiculous and finally to the unacceptable.

I would be very interested to receive any comments from you on this matter.

Sincerely,

Richard Haley

RH/ds

cc Jim McCain

Oklahoma

June 15, 1964

Mr. Milton Goodman
123½ N. Greenwood
Tulsa, Oklahoma

Dear Mr. Goodman:

A complaint came to this office last week concerning severance of relations between Tulsa CORE and one or two local lawyers who had previously rendered legal service for Tulsa CORE. Putting aside the question of whether this severance is in the best interest of CORE, the complaint dealt, rather, with the manner in which it was carried out. Specifically it was said that the chairman of Tulsa CORE broke off relations with the lawyer (s) without prior approval of the chapter.

It would be presumptuous of me to pass judgement pro or con; I have only the barest outline of facts. However, I think we all agree that the ultimate power in any democratic organization resides in the membership of that organization, not the leadership.

I hope that this disagreement has been settled in a proper democratic manner. If there is any way I can help felicitate this or any other matter, please let me know.

It should be clear to the chapter by now that the national staff does not assume arbitrary, dictatorial authority over any chapter. We try instead to help ease the solution of problems through suggestions and discussions. We want you to solve your own problems. Naturally, when a state of impasse develops, we must search for stronger measures that still fall within the scope of democracy. It is up to the chapter, itself, to make such extreme measures unnecessaryly.

Sincerely,

Richard Haley

RH/ds

cc Jim McCain
Mr. Robert Eaton

Statement to Oklahoma Times

June 8, 1964

It is the intent of National CORE to use its good offices to help the two CORE groups come to an amicable settlement of whatever differences may have arisen concerning Saturday's demonstration. Non-violence is broad enough to be applied to co-workers as well as opponents. CORE has every confidence a meeting of the minds can be achieved in this case through guidance rather than chastisement.

cc National Office
Isaac Reynolds

a national organization with affiliated local groups working

CONGRESS OF RACIAL EQUALITY

CORE

to abolish racial discrimination by direct, nonviolent methods

123½ N. GREENWOOD
P. O. BOX 6158
TULSA, OKLAHOMA
LUther 3-1631

President
Milton T. Goodwin
Secretary
Faye Small
Treasurer
C. L. Robinson

Membership Committee
Alonzo L. Batson
Projection Committee
Bob Eaton
Finance Committee
Barbara Plumlee
Youth Committee
Shirlie Scoggins
Communications Committee
Louise Antell
Indistrial Committee
Warren Sylvan
Training Committee
A. C. Ivery
Investigation Committee
Richard Batterson
Negotiations Committee
Ray Freeman
Publicity
E. L. Goodwin, Jr.
Public Relations Committee
Dan Dryz

August 11, 1964

Mr. Richard Haley
Southern Regional Director
2211 Dryades Street
New Orleans, Louisiana

Dear Sir:

Received your correspondence that referred to field projects.

However, we are lacking materials of which we need desperately in order to carry on organizational functions.

The following is a list of items needed:

1. "This is CORE"

2. "All about CORE"

3. Membership cards

4. CORE-lators

5. Rules of Action

6. Voter registration materials (Needed Desperately!!!)

Also, need to know the names and addresses of all the representatives of the regional action committee so that our chapter may establish communications with them.

We are presently reviving our constitution so that it will correspond with the constitution changes that were adapted at the convention. Also, we will hold an election for officers upon the adaption of the revived constitution.

Will appreciate if you can contact a field representative that will be coming to our area to notify us of the date that he will arrive here in Tulsa so that provisions may be made to accommodate him.

FREEDOM NOW

Milton T. Goodwin
President

MTG/ac

Comedian Dick Gregory, left, and Archibald Hill chat before performance.

CORE NOT GIVING UP

Comedian to Skip 'Ride'

By Ron Fulkerson

Plans for Negro comedian Dick Gregory to accompany Oklahoma City Congress of Racial Equality (CORE) workers on a "freedom ride" through southern Oklahoma fell through Thursday night, but plans for the trip were going ahead.

Gregory, who appeared before a CORE benefit performance at Municipal Auditorium, said, "I'm not going to be able to go. Man, I gotta keep to my tour."

Archibald Hill, Oklahoma City CORE chapter president, said the group will meet Tuesday night at the Eastside YMCA to formulate plans for the freedom ride.

He said the CORE membership would be invited, and a vote would be taken to determine if the trip would be made.

Gregory appeared before an audience of about 600 at Municipal Auditorium. More than 3,000 had been expected to attend.

Hill said he had "no idea" why the benefit, staged for three civil rights workers who were slain in Mississippi in June, received little support.

Funds from the benefit are to be added to a fund for a reward for the capture of the slayers.

Folk singer Len Chandler sang civil rights-type folk songs before Gregory's appearance. He drew applause with a lyrical dig at northerners. "You northern liberals," he sang, "take a klansman out to lunch, . . . but be sure to serve non-v[illegible] punch."

FIELD REPORT
THE ORGANIZATIONAL DEPARTMENT
CONGRESS OF RACIAL EQUALITY
38 PARK ROW
NEW YORK, NEW YORK - 10038

1. NAME OF CHAPTER Oklahoma City

2. DATE OF VISIT October 2, 1964

3. *EVALUATION OF CHAPTER (Good, Fair, Poor) Circle One

4. Do you feel that this chapter needs a non-violent workshop? yes ✓
no _____. If yes, how soon should it be given _____
_____.

5. Is current list of officers in the National Office? Yes _____
No _____. If no, supply at once.

6. If chapter is engaged in direct action, send photos to the Public Relation Department

7. If Chapter is unaffiliated, what are the necessary requirements to make it become affiliated _____

8. What projects are the chapter presently engaged in Direct Action Program

9. Is the Chapter attempting to meet the needs of the community?
yes ✓ no _____. If yes, in what way- can work a little harder

10. Does this chapter have good rapport with the other Civil Rights Groups in the Community? yes ✓ no _____ Explain _____

11. How does your chapter feel National Office can better service them? more materials need - films complete books etc.

12. Does the chapter need materials, etc? yes ✓ no ___ Please list.

13. This report is to be mailed in to the National Office, 48 hours after your visit.

*For your evaluation, use the back if necessary

Return information to
James T. McCain
Director, Organizational
Department.

FIELD REPORT
THE ORGANIZATIONAL DEPARTMENT
CONGRESS OF RACIAL EQUALITY
38 PARK ROW
NEW YORK, NEW YORK - 10038

1. NAME OF CHAPTER Tulsa, Oklahoma

2. DATE OF VISIT October 1, 1964

3. *EVALUATION OF CHAPTER (Good, (Fair), Poor) Circle One

4. Do you feel that this chapter needs a non-violent workshop? yes_____ no ✓. If yes, how soon should it be given_____ _____.

5. Is current list of officers in the National Office? Yes_____ No ✓. If no, supply at once.

6. If chapter is engaged in direct action, send photos to the Public Relation Department

7. If Chapter is unaffiliated, what are the necessary requirements to make it become affiliated_____

8. What projects are the chapter presently engaged in Direct Action program

9. Is the Chapter attempting to meet the needs of the community? yes_____ no ✓. If yes, in what way-_____

10. Does this chapter have good rapport with the other Civil Rights Groups in the Community? yes ✓ no_____ Explain_____

11. How does your chapter feel National Office can better service them? stop people from the national office from giving the chapter direct order

12. Does the chapter need materials, etc? yes ✓ no____ Please list.

13. This report is to be mailed in to the National Office, 48 hours after your visit.

*For your evaluation, use the back if necessary

Return information to
James T. McCain
Director, Organizational
Department.

One

10-13-64

CORE Pickets But Governors Don't See It

The News

San Antonio

"A Night in Old San Antonio" was re-enacted at La Villita Monday for the benefit of 16 southern governors but the evening included a demonstration San Antonio never had in its early days.

While the governors sampled food delicacies inside, a dozen representatives of the Congress of Racial Equality marched outside the west wall carrying placards and an empty coffin.

Jim Jennings, a spokesman for the pickets, said the coffin represented the death of segregation.

"We want to bury it," he explained.

The signs bore such messages as "Welcome KKK," "Moral Evil Invades San Antonio," "Where is Democracy?" and "Governors Would You Rather Fight than Switch."

The demonstrators missed connections with the dignitaries, here to attend the Southern Governors' Conference, most of whom boated up the San Antonio River from Navarro Street to the Villita area.

A dozen police officers were on hand during the orderly demonstration. Two men and two women carried the coffin which was carefully searched by a policeman. Except for one white woman, the demonstrators were Negroes. G.J. Sutton, East Side Negro leader, accompanied the group.

"The governors are fighting for state rights and we want civil rights," Jennings declared.

The demonstrators sang freedom songs, spirituals and a chant which said, "Just like the southern governors, we shall not be moved." One, aimed at Alabama Gov. George Wallace, declared "We're telling Governor Wallace we shall [illegible] be moved."

The demonstr[illegible]
expected [illegible]
Anthony
ernors'
do[illegible]

CORE Marches Outside La Villita

The Light

10-13-64

A dozen members of the Congress of Racial Equality, accompanied by East Side political leader G. J. Sutton, demonstrated outside La Villita Monday night while 15 Southern governors inside enjoyed "A Night in Old San Antonio."

The demonstrators carried an empty casket which a spokesman said symbolized the "death of segregation," and several signs reading "Where Is Democracy?", "Moral Evil Invades San Antonio," and "Welcome KKK."

The governors did not see the demonstrators.

Jake Jennings, one of the CORE members, said, "The governors are fighting for state's rights and we want civil rights."

The demonstrators had been expected to appear outside the St. Anthony Hotel to meet the governors as they departed for La Villita, but none showed up.

The demonstration was orderly and about 12 police officers followed the CORE youths.

tickets [1964, cont. Oct 9]
$25 each

75 TICKETS SOLD TO GREGORY SHOW

More than 75 tickets have been sold to the $25 a plate luncheon scheduled at noon Thursday as part of a memorial benefit performance by Dick Gregory, Negro comedian, and Len Chandler, Negro folk singer.

The luncheon will be held at the Louisiana Restaurant. Mrs. Rise Calder Gilbert, one of those taking reservations for the event, said Monday reservations still are being taken.

Gregory and Chandler are scheduled to appear at a reception from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. in Philbrook Art Center auditorium. No admission will be charged to the reception, although contributions will be taken.

The money will be raised in memory of three persons who were killed in Mississippi last summer on a mission to speed integration. The money will be used to aid Negro families in the area where the three persons died.

Mrs. W. L. Kelley is assisting in taking reservations.

file CORE

cc. Fr. Twomey, S.J.
Dick Haley

ORE Leader Deplores Catholic Church Apathy

Religious News Service

St. Louis, Mo.

e comparative lack of in-
ement by Catholics in the
rights movement is "one
ne greatest failures of the
olic Church," said James
ner, national director of the
gress on Racial Equality.
erviewed during a visit here,
Farmer said that Catholics
up a "very small percent
of the 1,000 students who
into Mississippi last sum-
to work on voter-registra-

"Most of the students who went to Mississippi last summer were from state universities or private colleges but not Catholic ones," he said. "We regret this very much. I don't know what the reason was for the Catholics not coming forward."

Schools

Mr. Farmer listed the Catholic Church's handling of school desegregation in the South as "another disappointment."

"While the Catholic schools have desegregated before the Protestant private school," he said, "they have waited until the public schools desegregated first. And we feel the Catholic schools should have led."

Mr. Farmer said he thought the best way for Catholic students in the North to get involved in civil rights work would be to invite civil rights speakers to their campuses.

"Catholic university students in St. Louis could begin by inviting speakers from the student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee of CORE," he said.

Observers Asked

"In all probability there will be another group going to Mississippi this summer and this is the time for students to get started if they wish to join in. I think it would help if an organization on the college campus could send one or two observers to see what conditions are in the South."

He said that CORE would be working this summer "in all probability" in Mississippi and Louisiana in Plaquemines, Iberville and West and East Feliciana Parishes (counties).

"Leander Perez, the political leader of Plaquemines was excommunicated by the Archbishop of New Orleans," Mr. Farmer said, "and he has a dungeon fixed up all ready for the first civil rights demonstrators who come into his territory.

"I think it would help a great deal in southern Louisiana, where there is a Jesuit University, and most of the people are Catholic, if students from St. Louis University came down to work.

"They could help not only with the people but with the priests, who with the exception of some in New Orleans, have been very uncooperative."

Know your issues. Read the editorial pages of The Oklahoma Courier and discuss them with your fellow Catholics.

Ordinances Tulsa Oklahoma CORE File [1904]

TITLE 19, SECTION 11

SECTION 11. RESISTING OFFICERS. It shall be unlawful for any person to knowingly or wilfully in any manner, or by or with the assistance of any instrument or device, obstruct, resist or oppose any officer or member of the Police Force of the City of Tulsa, or any special policeman of said City of Tulsa, or any person having police powers by authority of said City, or any person called to the assistance of any member of said police force, special policemen or other person having such police powers while in the discharge of the duties of their respective officers. (Ord. No. 1172.)

TITLE 19, SECTION 78.

SECTION 78. TRESPASS. Trespass is for the purpose of this section hereby defined as the doing of an injury or misfeasance to the person of another, or to the property of another person, when done with force and violence either actual or implied. It is further defined to include each and every actual entry upon the premises of another owner or person in possession of real property, without the owner's or occupant's consent, express or implied. In all cases where the entry is made on premises which are posted or warning has been published to stay out and off of said premises, the burden shall be upon the defendant to show that such permission was given. Any person who shall enter in or upon any public property, except at times and upon conditions when the same is subject to public use shall be guilty of an offense. The use of any public building, except for the purpose of dispatching business

with the public corporation shall in each and every case constitute a trespass unless the manner, purpose and extent of its use is first presented to the Board of Commissioners and its consent first obtained. Trespass as herein defined is hereby declared to be an offense and shall be punished as herein provided.

ELEMENTS CONSTITUTING RESISTING OFFICERS:

1. Police Officer or person with police authority making his authority known.

2. In discharge of regular duties as said officer.

3. Making a lawful directive or command in clear language.

4. Individual to whom said language was directed, after having heard, ignoring same or by physical action refuses to obey same.

EXAMPLE:

An officer appreaches a group of demonstrators obstructing sidewalk to the extent no other pedestrian traffic can use said sidewalk, an audible command is given to vacate half of the sidewalk or street, and after said audible command to do so the individual involved refuses to move on or over to the extent requested by the officer, then and in that event the individual either by his non-action or by his positive action opposes said officer's command could be charged with resisting an officer.

ELEMENTS CONSTITUTING TRESPASS:

1. Individual entering a place of business or other public or private place.

2. Owner, manager or person in control of said place requests said individual, or if a group of individuals such request is made individually, to leave premises.

3. Refusal of said individual, or group of individuals, to leave said premises after they have been requested to do so individually.

TITLE 19, SECTION 381.

SECTION 381. PUBLIC DISTURBANCE. It shall be unlawful for any person to wilfully or maliciously, either by day or by night, to disturb the peace and quietude of the City, and family or neighborhood of the City of Tulsa by loud or unusual noise of any kind whatsoever, or by profane, abusive, violent, or obscene language, whether addressed to the person or party so disturbed or to some other person, or by fighting or threatening to fight or by shooting off firearms, or brandishing the same, or to conduct one's self in a disorderly manner in any public place or in any other place within the corporate limits of the City of Tulsa. (Ord. No. 12.)

TITLE 19, SECTION 386.

SECTION 386. UNLAWFUL ASSEMBLY. Any three or more people who shall within the City, assemble together or shall act in concert, to do any unlawful act with force or violence against property of this City or the person or property of another, or against the peace or to the terror of others and shall make any movement or preparation therefore shall severally be guilty of an offense. Each and every person present at such meeting or assembly who shall not endeavor to prevent the commission or perpetration of such unlawful acts or who remain present after being lawfully warned to leave, shall be deemed guilty of an offense.

EXAMPLE:

An individual or group of individuals walking into Bordon's request service and manager advises each individual that his presence is not welcomed and request each individual person there to leave the premises. The person making the request must be the person who had authority from the owner to do so, and after a refusal to leave as requested, each and every individual may be charged with trespass. The purpose of the Ordinance being to allow a person in lawful control of property to forbid entrance by those whom they are unwilling to receive and to exclude them if having entered those in control see fit to command them to leave.

ELEMENTS CONSTITUTING PUBLIC DISTURBANCE.

1. An individual or group of individuals who intentionally make loud noises, shout obscenity or other foul language to other persons or in such manner that other persons could hear and be disturbed by such person.

2. An individual or group of individuals who cause a fight to take place or who threatened in work or actions to fight any other person.

3. An individual or group of individuals who in their manner of conducting themselves are rude, obscene and offensive in a public place to the extent that by such conduct any and all persons nearby or within hearing or seeing distance of such conduct are disturbed.

TITLE 19, SECTION 387.

SECTION 387. CONGREGATING ON STREET. It shall be an offense for any person or persons to obstruct any sidewalk, street or alley or any walk or any public grounds in the City by congregating or in any way assembling therein or thereon, and each of such persons shall be guilty of an offense. It shall be unlawful for any person to commit any act which has for its purpose the assemblying of people on any sidewalk, street or alley to such an extent as to obstruct passage thereon.

TITLE 19, SECTION 421.

SECTION 421. PICKETING. It shall be unlawful for any person or persons to walk, stand, or loiter along or upon any sidewalk, street or alley in the City of Tulsa while engaged in the act of displaying any sign or banner or calling out to persons that they should not patronize any place of business, or to engage in any act of picketing any place of business when such acts or congregating prevents the passage of traffic or pedestrians along any sidewalk, street or alley or the entrance of people into any place of business.

EXAMPLE:

An individual or group of individuals demonstrating on public street, sidewalk or in any public place where such demonstration is conducted in a loud and abusive manner, where threats are shouted to other patrons or insults hurled upon other persons in this particular public place or who upon entering into the business establishment acting in such a manner as to disturb other persons therein and cause discomfort to other patrons who might be in the particular business establishment.

ELEMENTS CONSTITUTING UNLAWFUL ASSEMBLING:

1. Three or more people gathering together for the purpose of planning an unlawful act by force against the property of the City of of another person.

2. An overt act by this group toward a completion of this plan of Violence.

3. Failure by any member of this group after learning the purpose they urge the disbursment of the group.

4. A command to leave or disburse by an officer or person with legal authority and the failure of person or persons so warned to heed this lawful command.

EXAMPLE:

Three or more people after a meeting begin proceeding down a street or sidewalk, etc. while declaring their intention to smash the window of the Piccadilly Cafeteria; after proceeding to the front of this establishment they start toward the window with sticks or rocks an officer or person with legal auth-

ority warns each and every one of them to stop and disburse and such request is ignored and the individuals proceed to carry out their plan by force and violence, each person who remains after having been warned to leave and disburse could be charged with an offense. The same would apply if such act was directed toward any property of the City.

ELEMENTS CONSTITUTING CONGREGATING ON THE STREET:

1. One or more persons who obstruct the sidewalk, streets or alley or any public ground.

2. The obstruction shall be such as to prevent other persons from using said sidewalk, street, alley or public ground in any way.

EXAMPLE:

A person or persons parading down the sidewalk with picket signs or banners in such a manner as to prevent any other pedestrian from using the same sidewalk. If such procession is in single file thereby leaving open a portion of the sidewalk available to other pedestrian traffic such would not constitute sufficient obstruction of the sidewalk to cause a charge to be filed. If a mass parade takes place in the street to the extent vehicular traffic is blocked or interfered with, such obstruction of the street would be sufficient grounds to charge each and every person involved with the offense.

ELEMENTS CONSTITUTING PICKETING:

1. Individual or group of individuals walking, standing or loitering on a street, sidewalk or alley.

2. Said individual or individuals displaying signs or banners and/or

3. Said individual or individuals calling out to passersby not to patronize a particular establishment.

Any or all of which acts obstructs and prevents the passage of other pedestrians along any street, sidewalk or alley or prevents people from entering the extablishment being so picketed.

EXAMPLE:

An individual or group of individuals parading on the sidewalk in front of Piccadilly's used the entire sidewalk in their parade thereby causing other pedestrians to leave the sidewalk, to go into the street to pass this particular establishment, or who by their parade on said sidewalk with said signs and banners so block and obstruct the entrance to said establishment that patrons desiring to enter can not do so without interference, then any and all individuals could be charged with the offense.

TITLE 28, Section 153.

SECTION 153. PERMITS REQUIRED. No funeral, procession or parade, containing 100 or more persons or 20 or more vehicles excepting the forces of the United States Army or Navy, the military forces of this state, and the forces of the police and fire departments, shall occupy, march or proceed along any street except in accordance with a permit issued by the Chief of Police and such other regulation as are set forth herein which may apply.

(Ord. No. 4513).

ELEMENTS CONSTITUTING A PARADE:

1. Three or more vehicles travelling together not in a funeral.

2. Proceeding along a public street.

3. Lack of a permit from the Board of Commissioners by the person in charge or any person involved which does not set out the time, specific route and date said parade is to take place.

EXAMPLE:

Three or more cars proceeding down Main Street and other streets of the City obviously travelling together in such a manner as denotes a precession. Any officer who stops such procession should inquire of the persons involved as to whether or not they have in their possession a permit issued by the Board of Commissioners covering the particular day and specifying the route then being travelled by the procession. If no such permit can be produced, then any and all drivers of automobiles in said procession could be charged with the offense of parading without a permit.

TITLE 17, SECTION 1 - NUISANCES

SECTION 1. NUISANCE DEFINED. A public nuisance consists of unlawfully doing an act, or omitting to perform a duty, which act or omission either:

(c) Unlawfully interferes with, obstructs or tends to obstruct, or renders dangerous for passage, a lake or basin, or any public park, square, alley, highway, or streets; or

TITLE 17, SECTION 4.

SECTION 4. AFFECTING PEACE AND SAFETY. The following are hereby declared to be public nuisances affecting public peace and safety:

(1) Any use of the public streets or sidewalks which causes large crowds of people to gather, obstructing traffic and the free use of the streets or sidewalks;

ELEMENTS CONSTITUTING A NUISANCE:

1. Obstruction of any alley, sidewalk or street.

2. Dangerous condition caused by obstruction.

EXAMPLE:

A large gathering of people demonstrating by parade on said alley, sidewalk or street or kneeling or sitting upon the above named in such a manner as to prevent other traffic, either vehicular or pedestrian from using the same location in an orderly manner whereby their manner of blocking or abstructing said alley, sidewalk or street it would be considered dangerous for the person to attempt to use said alley, sidewalk, or street at the same time.

ELEMENTS CONSTITUTING A PUBLIC NUISANCE WHICH EFFECTS PEACE AND SAFETY:

1. Demonstration by a large crowd by either parade, sitting or kneeling upon public street, entrance to building or on sidewalk.

2. A large crowd of onlookers gathering.

3. Vehicular traffic stall or traffic jam of said large crowd.

EXAMPLE: Several people sitting in the entrance to Brown Dunkin or Vandevers to the extent other patrons cannot use the entrance and by kneeling or sitting using the entire sidewalk to the extent other pedestrians are forced to step into the street in order to get around said persons thereby causing them to interfere with vehicular traffic and possible personal injury.

ELEMENTS CONSTITUTING ACT REQUIRING PERMITS:

1. Large gathering of people either on foot or automobile for purpose of public meeting or parade in public park.

2. Lack of authorization or permit from Park Board or Park superintendent to conduct such meeting or parade in a public park.

EXAMPLE:

An offi er observing a public meeting, parade or large gathering or people assembled for a common cause should ascertain who is in charge or who is conducting such meeting and inquire of that person whether or not they have a permit or other authorization from the Park Board or Park Superintendent authorizing the use of that location for the purpose of onducting such meeting, etc. If neither the person in control, or any other individual taking part, can produce any such authorization, then any and all persons taking part in such demonstration or meeting could be charged.

If said use of the sidewalk is partially blocked, that is even though kneeling or sitting takes place on the sidewalk and there is available the other half of the sidewalk for pedestrian traffic, such would not constitute a total obstruction contemplated by the ordinance.

TITLE 18, SECTION 2, ACTS REQUIRING PERMITS.

SECTION 2. ACTS REQUIRING PERMITS. It shall be an offense for any person to perform any of the following acts within any public park or other area under the control of the Park Board unless the doing of such act is authorized by the Park Board or the Park Superintendent.

(a) To give any theatrical entertainment, moving picture show, parade, procession, public gathering or public meeting of any kind, post or display any sign, banner, or advertisement upon any tree, post, building or other structure.

Chapter

Feb. 1, 1965

Southern Region, CORE

Dear Sirs;

Inclosed is a copy of a letter that was sent by Tulsa CORE to members of the Tulsa Board of Education and the Superintendant of schools on Jan. 15th of this year. Today members of our Education Committee will attend the regular Board of Education meeting to hear this discussed. We will inform you of future developements as quickly as possible.

We regret not being more prompt and thorough in reporting our activities to you. However at present Tulsa CORE is attempting to carry on a full scale program in several areas with an empty bank account and a very limited active membership. Every member is consequently serving in several capacities and our human resources are taxed, to put it mildly! We're making every effort to correct this situation and hope in the near future to be able to send you a more complete and positive report.

Briefly, we continue to test Tulsa's public accommadations ordinance, and have just recently succeeded in opening a "help-yourself" laundry in our mixed neighborhood that was a flagrant hold out, with "White Only" signs on the doors.

Our Employment committee is winding up a series of interviews with a group of 13 companies chosen as a pilot group by the Chapter. Next step remains uncertain at this point.

Any suggestions or comments in these areas or others will be appreciated, and again, we hope to make more frequent and complete reports in the future.

Sincerely,

Carol Sherman

Carol Sherman
Acting Corres. Sec.

TO: MEMBERS OF THE TULSA BOARD OF EDUCATION
Mr. F. Boesche
Mr. Carl Beesley
Mrs. Virgil O. Wood
Mr. William L. Butler
Mr. Lahman D. Jones
Mrs. Ridge Bond
Mrs. Opel Carllson
3027 South New Haven Avenue
Tulsa, Oklahoma

We deeply appreciate the understanding and concern that has been given by the Board of Education to problems that have arisen in our community with regard to racial matters. It is our feeling that in many respects the Tulsa Board of Education and the Tulsa School Administration have done remarkably well in solving many complex problems in our educational system.

We are aware, however, of certain aspects regarding education that make us feel that it is necessary for us to make our position known. Our committee and organization has attempted to keep informed of problems, requests, recommendations, and solutions made to, and by, the School Administration-Board of Education. We are aware of many interested persons and groups who have over the past six (6) years attempted to negotiate important interracial concerns with the School Administration-Board of Education. We believe that the failure to fulfill requests made by wise individuals and groups with regard to interracial matters is evidence enough that negotiation on our part would also prove futile. Therefore, the Tulsa Chapter of the Congress of Racial Equality makes these specific requests listed herein.

However, before listing our requests there are several items we need to have clarified for both ourselves and the School Administration-Board of Education:

1) We understand that there have been a number of attempts to inform the Board of Education as to the function of a Board of Education. School Administration and/or management is to be carried on by the Administration. This management is made possible by the Board of Education which sets policies and directives for the Administration. We are convinced from all our discussions and consultations with wise leaders in our city knowledgable in education, that policy making and management have been confused in our school system. Therefore, we want it understood that in all matters relating to policy making, our negotiations, consultations and discussions be with the Board of Education and that in all matters relating to how these policies are to be carried out we will of necessity be working with the School Administration.

2) We are very much aware and feel very keenly about the fact that whenever a discussion is held anywhere in our city there is usually something said or insinuated about the inferiority of North Tulsa Schools and/or the superiority of South Tulsa Schools. We are sure you are as aware of this as we are. It is our strongly held belief that schools of racial minority or culturally deprived children should be the best schools in our system, not just as good as the majority schools, but better. We believe this is not true in Tulsa and would like to be convinced that we are wrong. We are convinced that minority schools should be the best so that minority children will be able to meet and solve all the problems in life which come to persons of color or low economic background.

3) We wish a clear answer to this question within thirty days of receipt of this letter: Does the Board of Education-School Administration know how to deal with such interracial matters as teacher integration, cultural lag, training in human relations for teachers, etc.? If the answer to this question is affirmative then these requests shall take less time, effort, and money. However, if the answer is negative, it is our request that a special consultant in such matters be hired as part of the Administrative staff to give the School Administration-Board of Education necessary assistance in such long neglected matters and that this be done by May 1 of this year.

Our requests are arranged in three catagories:

I. Teacher Integration: We believe that it should be the avowed policy of the Board of Education that race will not be a factor in teacher placement. No "quota system" or "percentage factor" be used for placement of Negro or white teachers. We understand the difficulties in reassignment of large numbers of teachers, but believe that token steps can be taken in this direction prior to the 1965-1966 academic year. The following changes are requested:

A. That our senior high schools be grouped into three geographic areas and that three Negro teachers be assigned to one school in each area which has all-white faculties and that three white teachers be added to the staff of Washington Senior High.

B. That our 17 junior high schools be grouped into five geographic areas (excluding Carver and Anderson) and that at least two Negro teachers be assigned to one school in each area and that both Carver and Anderson be assigned at least two white teachers each.

C. That all 70 elementary schools be grouped into ten geographic areas and that at least two schools in each area be assigned Negro teachers and that white teachers be assigned to those "Negro schools" from which the above have been reassigned to assure that each school with total Negro enrollment has at least four white teachers.

We wish to assure you that our requests are made with great care. It is our request that some person designated by the Board of Education be present at our April 6, 1965, meeting at 7:30 to inform our organization of concrete plans regarding these teacher-integration requests.

II. Teacher Training and Curriculum: The Negro has been placed in an unfavorable light because of prejudice and economic deprivations, and a concerted effort is necessary to erase these disadvantages. The following recommendations are keyed to this problem:

A. That concrete plans be made to have a special course in Human Relations in the coming summer session for classroom teachers and that a continuous program of human relations training be available for classroom teachers and school administrators which will help all leaders in our school system who will be able, in turn, to help all they influence in proper attitudes toward persons differing from themselves and that this be done by April 6, 1965.

B. That the Board of Education-School Administration stimulate, encourage and assist the State Curriculum Committee to search for texts that fairly present the part Negroes played in the history of our nation and world and that such texts be used in our school system by September, 1966. That meanwhile, special assistance be given all history teachers to assure that historical truths presented in the classroom be done in such a way as to eliminate the possible deduction that "it was the white people who built our nation " and that a plan of action for this be given us by April 6, 1965.

C. That the study and use of teaching materials presently available concerning race and proper human relations attitudes be encouraged and if necessary, assistance from individuals and organizations in our city be used.

III. Other Action: In an effort to reduce "cultural lag" fostered by past segreation and economic deprivations of the Negro minority, the following actions are requested:

A. The elimination of the "platoon system" or the "semi-departmental system" for grades one through three in at least two of the elementary schools in the Negro community of our city and that plans to this effect be shown us by May 1, 1965.

B. The establishment of a special committee to guide a volunteer tutorial program (at least two committee members to be from our organization or persons we designate) to guide the administration of the program, provide facilities if necessary, provide materials if necessary, but mainly to give School Board and Administration endorsement and encouragement to the efforts of such a committee and volunteers and that this committee be established by May 1, 1965.

C. To provide a full-time employment and vocational counselor for Negro schools, especially for Negroes in senior high schools. His duties to include curriculum suggestions, discussion of job opportunities with both industrial representatives and students, the outlining of job requirements for specific employment opportunities, and that this person's voice be heeded when suggestions are given to the Board of Education-School Administration with regard to necessary changes and additions to be made and that this be done by May 1, 1965.

D. The establishment of a special committee to determine the feasibility of a two year Kindergarten for children in culturally deprived neighborhoods and that this committee include persons from our organization or whomever we choose and that this committee be established by May 1, 1965.

E. The establishment of a special committee to study the boundries of school districts the purpose of which would be to determine the possibility of a more equitable balance in percentage of Negro and white students in any school and to eliminate unnecessary transportation expense involved in getting students to the schools "where they belong," and that this committee include

at least two persons from our organization or persons we designate and that this committee be established by May 1, 1965.

F. That qualified Negroes be sought and trained to fill vacancies in the administrative staff to minimize the racial inbalance that now exists.

We are aware that in these requests we overemphasize color and race. However, we know, no matter how much it is disclaimed, existing policies and practices have also overemphasized race. It is our hope that by giving proper emphasis to color through our requests that the time will soon come when neither the Board of Education - School Administration, nor we, will have to overemphasize race and color.

We are aware that we lack knowledge and experience with regard to many aspects of the problems of education in our city. It is our desire that we be called upon to give assistance wherever possible. We will be willing, at the Board of Education's convenience, to be questioned concerning these requests. We consider date given to be deadlines and they shall stand unless agreement regarding any changes shall have been made within 30 days of receipt of this letter. Mr. C.L. Robinson, 1323 N. Lansing, LUther 7-9008 (Chairman, Tulsa Chapter Congress of Racial Equality); or Mr. Ray Freeman, 2240 N. Lansing, LUther 7-2344 (Chairman of the Education Committee), should be available for this purpose or someone to be designated by them.

The racial discrepancies in educational standards and opportunities in Tulsa have been manifest for many years and we believe that these should be eliminated as rapidly as possible. We feel that by April 1, 1965, sufficient time will have been available for some concrete plans to be made. To show the good faith of the Board of Education we would like to meet with them to discuss these plans by that time. It will be necessary for us to be convinced by tangible evidence that action shall be forthcoming concerning these requests by April 1, 1965. During this period of time no further action will be taken by our committee so that the Board of Education can discuss and act upon these requests without the glare of publicity and public pressure. If, however, we are convinced by April 1, 1965, that no action is forthcoming, our dedication to racial equality will force us to use whatever lawful means are at our disposal to work towards the fulfillment of these objectives. Be assured we will be busy planning a "lawful means" to insist that each request be met.

In closing, permit us to quote two educationists from Florida State University: "It has become painfully evident in the past few years that, unless the nation begins to take longer strides on the first mile of the long road to equality and integration, the Negro revolt will change from nonviolent to a violent one. The white community will have to fight those Negroes who have too much spirit to submit any longer, and it will have to support with its charity those who are too apathetic to fight. The other alternative will be increasingly repressive measures which would change the nature of the Republic and destroy the image of American Democracy." (From Racial Crisis in America, by Killian and Grigg). It is our desire that the Tulsa Board of Education-School Administration begin to take "longer strides."

In the interest of the education of all citizens of Tulsa,

The Education Committee of the Tulsa Chapter of
the Congress of Racial Equality -
Mr. Ray Freeman, Committee Chairman

Tulsa Tribune 2-6-65

CORE May Get Little Credit for Revisions

School 'Equalities' Shaped

Many of the school changes outlined in the Congress of Racial Equality demands to the Board of Education this week probably will be made in the Tulsa school system next school year but CORE will get little credit.

Members of the Board of Education met behind closed doors with a five-member Negro citizens committee for two hours Friday afternoon to discuss the upgrading of Negro education in Tulsa schools. Only three board members (less than a quorum) were present so the "open meeting" law was circumvented and reporters were barred.

When the meeting was over, Fenelon Boesche, president of the school board, said an official statement will be written and released next week. He also said the board members will meet with the committee again March 5.

IT APPEARED ONE OF THE first results that may come of the board-committee meeting will be an in-service human relations course for teachers next summer.

This would prepare them for more teacher integration at the start of the 1965-66 school year. Burroughs and Emerson Elementary Schools now have integrated teaching staffs.

More emphasis on Negro vocational and employment counseling is expected. Addition of Negro personnel to the school administrative staff is considered a strong possibility.

Serious study will probably be given a proposal for extra kindergarten training for "culturally deprived" youngsters, but this will be limited by the amount of funds and teachers available.

It seems less likely there will be any wholesale redistricting of schools as suggested by the CORE proposals, at least any time soon.

PRESSED FOR DETAILS OF the meeting after it was announced no statements will be made until next week, Boesche said:

"We reviewed the work done by this committee and the school board during the last year and a half. We were pleased with the progress we have been making."

Were the CORE demands discussed?

"CORE was only mentioned in casual conversation."

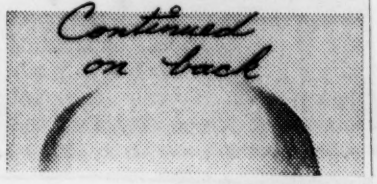
Will the CORE demands be acted on by the board?

"CORE's demands paralleled some the committee and the board have been working on in the past," Boesche said.

It was believed that the board-committee discussion has covered virtually the same ground as the CORE proposals with the exception of deadline ultimatums and the appointment of enforcement committees to see that the proposals are carried out.

CORE'S ACTION OBVIOUSLY has caused the board and the

See SCHOOLS, page 12



A 21-year-old brunette, Miss Grooms bested nine other finalists. Runner-up was Jill Jane Waddell, 18, of Oklahoma City. Bonita Ann Synar, Miami, was chosen Miss Congeniality.

The other finalists were Carol Dene Duckert, Sapulpa; Diane Dabney, Vernon, Tex., and Carol Nickles, Ponca City.

Miss Grooms, who is studying to become a music teacher, received $250 and a trophy.

Schools

Continued from page 11

Negro committee to renew the work it began in 1963, but most of CORE's ideas already had been expressed to the school board by the committee.

The steps taken toward the Negro goals will be governed to a great extent by the availability of funds.

Present at the meeting were board members Carl Beesley, Mrs. Ridge Bond, and Boesche; the Revs. Ben Hill, B. S. Roberts, George McCutchen and attorney Amos Hall and Marion Taylor, executive director of the Tulsa Urban League, all members of the Negro citizens committee; Henry Whitlow, principal at Washington High School, and Dr. Charles C. Mason, Tulsa schools superintendent.

Mr. "Thanks a Lot"
Billy Parker
FEATURING
- Rocky Caple
- The Osborne Trio
- Francis Self

SAT., FEB. 13
Hank Thompson

Savor that backyard cook-out flavor in every Burger Chef hamburger.

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2-6-65

Board

Editor, The Tribune:

I commend the Tulsa School Board for their flat rejection of the ridiculous demands of the CORE organization.

My only possible reason for criticism of the board would be that the demands were not considered ludicrous and not worthy of the board's attention.

JACK C. HOLLIS

Tulsa

Editor, The Tribune:

Someone should advise the leaders of CORE that, in Tulsa, we don't question or criticize our school administration or its Board of Education because they are infallible and omnipotent. . . .

D. L. T.

Tulsa

Tulsa World 2-6-65

Report to Outline Integration Pace

A statement will be issued late next week relating progress of school integration talks held Friday between three members of Tulsa's Board of Education and six Tulsa Negro citizens.

The two-hour session Friday provided only one result—Fenelon Boesche, board president, said the degree of progress made at the conference will be contained in the written report.

The two-hour long conference was closed to newsmen, but Boesche disclosed it dealt mainly wth a review of what has been done in the past 1½ years. "We are pleased with the progress," said Boesche.

He said another meeting has been scheduled for March 5.

Similarities Reported

Boesche admitted the demands of Congress of Racial Equality, submitted in mid-January to the board, paralleled to some degree the integration recommendations presented by the Negro residents more than a year ago.

But Boesche said he could not say at this time whether the board would adopt any of CORE's request. In a Monday statement the board refused to deal with CORE and turned down the integration demands.

Carl C. Beesley, a member of the three-person committee, said he was "very happy with progress being made." Beesley was board president in 1963 and helped instigate the meetings of board members, administrators and Negro residents.

Reason Unknown

Beesley said he could not say why some of the original integration recommendations submitted by the Negro committee had not been implemented.

The third board member working with Beesley and Boesche is Mrs. Ridge Bond, one of two new members on the school board.

Negro residents attending the session were Amos T. Hall, Marion M. Taylor, the Rev. Ben H. Hill, the Rev. B. S. Roberts, the Rev. George C. McCutchen and Henry Whitlow. Whitlow is principal of Washington High School.

Taylor indicated after the meeting the Negro residents were not speaking for the entire Negro community.

2-8-65

2-8-65

CORE Postpones Schools Action

Direct action to reach objectives of the Congress of Racial Equality in further integration of the Tulsa school system will be delayed until March 4, according to a letter sent by the organization to the Tulsa Board of Education Sunday.

A copy of the two-page letter mailed by CORE to all board members was given to the Tulsa Daily World Sunday night.

The letter, signed by C. L. Robinson, CORE president, advanced by almost a month the group's deadline for implementing "whatever lawful means are at our disposal to work toward fulfillment of our objectives" if integration in Tulsa schools is not speeded up.

Fenelon Boesche, school board president, withheld comment after being informed of the letter Sunday night by telephone.

"I have no comment until I receive a copy of the letter and have an opportunity to study it," Boesche said.

Demands Rejected

Board of Education members flatly rejected demands by CORE on Feb. 2nd. A prepared Board of Education statement issued at that time read "The issue raised by CORE is not by what means can we improve our educational program. This we are constantly striving to do. The issue, rather, is who shall direct your school system—the Board of Education or CORE. We resolve this issue here and now by stating that the Board of Education will continue to do so."

Boesche also said the board does not intend and has no legal right to delegate or abrogate its responsibility to or in favor of any individual or group of individuals.

Friday, following a meeting between three members of the school board and six Tulsa Negro citizens, board president Boesche reported a degree of progress was made in the conference. He said a statement covering the meeting, which was closed to newsmen, would be released this week.

CORE 'Encouraged'

In the CORE letter being mailed Sunday, CORE reported being "encouraged by the news release of Feb. 6, stating that a meeting with members of the Board of Education and a "committee" of Negroes appeared to have reached agreements on some action covering virtually the same ground as the CORE proposals, in such areas as teacher integration, in-service human relations study for teachers, addition of Negro personnel to the school administration staff, extra kinder-

See CORE on Page 2

Ponca City	56	53	Lawton	56	50
Hobart	58	49	Okla. City	56	40
McAlester	65	56	Guymon	49	29

CORE

Continued from Page One

garten training for culturally deprived children, etc."

The letter began with a reference to citizens' constitutional rights to assemble and to petition the government for redress of grievances and identified the Tulsa Board of Education as the proper group to which school grievances should be addressed.

Statement Noted

It then continued with "It is unfortunate, therefore, that the Board of Education has seen fit not only to disregard the right of this group of citizens to a hearing, but to misconstrue the letter of Jan. 14, from CORE to the Board of Education.

"In the prepared statement that was read by the board following the receipt of CORE's letter requesting consideration and action on these legitimate grievances, reference was made to 'demand' and 'violence' which, according to the board's statement, was threatened by CORE if its 'demands' were not met.

"Violence would, in fact, be in direct contradiction to the principles of CORE. Rather CORE's letter expressed the hope that the Board would act as a responsible, elected, policy-making body in regard to these requests.

To Postpone Action

"CORE's letter then stated, 'If however we are convinced by April 1, 1965, that no action is forthcoming, our dedication to racial equality will force us to use whatever lawful means are at our disposal to work toward the fulfillment of our objectives.'"

"Since CORE's main concern is, however, with these objectives and not with the method of fulfilling them, we have agreed to postpone any direct action until March 4, during which period the Community Development Council, under the leadership of State Rep. Curtis Lawson will conduct a full scale investigation into existing conditions in the schools of North Tulsa. Hearings will be held by a committee chosen by Mr. Lawson, at which educators and citizens will be invited to express themselves."

The letter concluded as follows:

"Therefore, if these changes are promptly forthcoming, and the other areas covered by CORE are thoroughly investigated through this 'committee' of Negroes chosen by the school administration in an atmosphere of 'mutual respect and cordiality' no one will be more satisified than CORE. However, CORE remains a non-violent, direct action group. If the 'committee' meets with the same lack of results that have been the outcome of similar requests by groups over the past six years, CORE will be compelled to turn to 'direct action' methods."

Tulsa [illegible] 2-8-65

Result of Meeting Awaited

CORE Denies March 4 Direct Action Deadline

By BILL SAMPSON

The March 4 date mentioned in a new letter sent Sunday from the Congress of Racial Equality here to the Board of Education is not a new deadline for demonstrations, Tulsa CORE chapter president C. L. Robinson said today. "The letter is only to notify the school board that the Community Development Council, headed by Rep. Curtis Lawson, expects to complete a series of public hearings on northside education by that date," Robinson said.

"CORE is working closely with the CDC. We are not promising any demonstrations after March 4," he said.

CORE originally set a deadline of April 1 for the school board to implement a series of demands CORE believes would upgrade Negro education here. The board flatly rejected the CORE ultimatum and then renewed discussions with a group of leading Negro ministers, civic workers and educators.

THE CDC ANNOUNCED AT A Negro rally last week it plans to hold about three public hearings during February. Principals and teachers from Negro area schools will be invited to speak at the hearings. The CDC plans to write a report on findings at the hearings.

Some CDC leaders also are CORE members. Robinson said CORE plans no demonstrations until after the CDC hearings are completed. He said the April 1 deadline for the school board to show some of CORE's demands will be met still stands.

CORE is pushing for more teacher integration, redistricting of school areas to boost integration, two years of kindergarten for Negro students, more Negro school administrators and more emphasis on Negroes in U.S. history classes.

The school board is believed to be discussing some of those topics with the Negro citizens committee, but board members and the committee have declined comment until a prepared statement is written and released later this week.

2-7-65

Tulsa Sunday World 2-7-65

The People's VOICE

Education Board Stand On CORE Goals Praised

I wish to commend the Board of Education of the Tulsa school system for the stand which it has taken in regard to the demands of CORE. I am sure that all of the patrons of Tulsa schools will agree that the schools should be run by the Board of Education rather than by pressure groups.

Having lived in an integrated neighborhood for three years, I would like to present the viewpoint of a white person concerning integration. Contrary to what Mr. Robinson might believe, the majority of whites are prone to give the Negro more than an equal chance to prove himself. If you will observe, the bulk of white homes which go up for sale in an integrated situation do not do so until at least a year after the Negroes have moved in.

Until the Negro can learn to live like a white person, the whites are going to move away.... I believe the answer to the elevation of the status of the Negro to be the same as for the white. As an individual the Negro must prove himself.... I believe that the Negro who has done so will agree with me that he is accepted by the whites as an equal human being. This cannot be done by being arrested deliberately as Martin Luther King has done or by ultimatums to the Tulsa Board of Education.

It is my belief and my wish that the Board of Education will continue to give all of the children of Tulsa equal educational opportunities in the future as they have so ably done in the past.

5118 E. 30th Place MRS. BILL SPILLMAN

2-9-65

Tulsa World 2-9-65

School Board Head Lau
CORE's No-Violence Vow

By FRANK LESLIE
Of The World Staff

Tulsa Board of Education president, Fenelon Boesche, said Monday he was glad the board members had misconstrued the intent of a portion of a Jan. 14 letter from the Congress of Racial Equality which mentioned violence as a possible method of obtaining school integration goals.

Boesche's statement came in answer to the latest letter written by CORE and signed by its president, C. L. Robinson. The letter was delivered to board member Monday.

In it, Robinson said it was unfortunate that the board has not only seen fit to disregard the right of CORE to a hearing regarding integration demands but also to misconstrue the meaning of the letter.

Violence would, in fact, wrote Robinson, be in direct contradiction to the principles of CORE. CORE's letter, he wrote, rather expressed the hope that the board would act as a reasonable, elected, policy-making body in regard to the CORE requests.

The latest letter also denied that CORE had established a new deadline for demonstrations if demands were not met. Instead, wrote Robinson, the letter is only to notify the school board that the Community Development Council, headed by Rep. Curtis Lawson, expects to complete a series of public hearings on northside education by the March 4 date.

In its Jan. 14 letter to the board, CORE originally set a deadline of April 1 for the board to implement the series of demands.

"I have these comments to make regarding CORE's most recent letter to the board," said Boesch.

"CORE refers to the lack of results from similar requests by groups over the past six years. During my entire service on the board I do not recall receiving any petition, requests or demands from any Negro group or organization prior to CORE's letter of Jan. 14 1965."

Boesche said he sincerely hoped the committee selected by Lawson of the Community Development Council is qualified to evaluate the Tulsa school system and discharge its responsibilities with complete objectivity.

"CORE's demands of Jan. 14," he said, "substantially duplicated certain recommendations submitted at the board's invitation by five leaders of the Negro community almost 18 months ago."

Boesche noted the board will issue a joint progress report this week concerning the latest meeting with Negro citizens. It was held Friday.

"I am delighted," continued Boesche, "that we appear to have misconstrued the last paragraph of CORE's letter of Jan. 14 as containing a threat of violence.

"If all interested citizens dedicate themselves to the task of providing the best possible education for all children — regardless of color — I am confident the areas of disagreement will fast disappear."

2-10-65

Tulsa World 2-10-65

Those Who Need Schools Have the Worst of Them

By SYDNEY J. HARRIS

"It's a funny thing about money," Josh Billings once observed. "The poor, who need it most, have the least of it." His ironic 19th Century joke about money might be translated into 20th Century terms of education.

For the children today who need the best schooling most of all have the least; and those who need it the least have the best. Until we rectify this unbalance, it doesn't much matter if we "integrate" or "segregate."

The best schools are in the upper-middle-class suburbs, where the children are already exposed to numerous and early cultural influences and advantages. By the time they start school, they have already met and mastered many challenges to their minds.

THE WORST SCHOOLS, OF course, are in the slums, where the children are denied any creative pre-school experience. Homes are generally "non-verbal," there is an absence of books and magazines, and (most of all) parents are not looked upon as people who answer questions, but who give orders.

By the time a slum child is 6 and enters school, the odds are better than even that he will be a dropout. He begins with an enormous disadvantage, and never gets the chance to catch up.

The vast majority of these children do not attend nursery school or kindergarten. Since the most formative and crucial years in a child's life—both emotionally and intellectually—are between the ages of 2½ and 6, most of them are doomed from the start, except for the few who are lucky enough to be both bright and aggressive.

THE BEST SCHOOLS SHOULD be situated in these neighborhoods, where they might be able to compensate in some part for the environmental deficiencies. Simply mixing black and white children together—much as it might satisfy the demand for social justice—is educationally pointless, so long as the schools themselves remain less than mediocre.

And even an enormous upgrading of the slum schools will not make much of a dent unless, first of all, these children are exposed to cultural influences at an earlier age than 6, and secondly, unless the slum mentality and attitoward life is somehow eradicated along with the tenements themselves.

This is our nation's biggest problem, and it is growing all the time. We are planning to spend something like $20 billion to send an American man to the moon. Does anyone doubt that this incredible sum could be more profitably spent in sending millions of American boys and girls to schools that fit them for citizenship and in removing those handicaps that must eventually drag the entire nation into conflict?

2-4-65

The Oklahoma Eagle

"We Make America Better When We Aid Our People"

ished Every Thursday
North Greenwood Ave.

VOLUME 45, NUMBER 38 | THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 1965 | 123 N. GREENWOOD | TULSA, OKLAHOMA

TULSA SCHOOL BOARD SHUNS C

Militant Group Sets Deadline

By E. L. Goodwin, Jr.
Of The Eagle Staff

The Tulsa School Board publicized the most turbulen statement in a decade, according to television statio (Channel 8) KTUL, when it flatly rejected an impressive plea by the Congress of Racial Equality to negotiate sensibly with the organization concerning integration and education.

This destroyed months of planning by concerned parties on both sides who recognize the inequities that exist, said authorities.

At the regular monthly Board meeting Tuesday, Jan. 1, (See Board of Education Statement) Board President Fenlon Boeshe answered their plea and statement of requests saying, "The issue raised by CORE is not by what means can we improve our educational program, the issue is who shall direct your school system — The board of education or CORE. We resolve this issue here and now by stating that the board of education will continue to do so.

The School Board's position was challenged by CORE president C. L. Robinson, who said, "If they fail to meet the organization's requests for teacher integration, redrafting of existing school lines and other demands, we will have what is commonly known as a "long hot summer."

CORE STATEMENT

The Education Committee of CORE submitted a three-page legal sized letter for the Board's consideration in mid-January. It asked the Board to discuss the requests without the "glare of publicity and public measure," before April 1, 1965.

The School Board invited CORE to

SEE SCHOOL BOARD STATEMENT

its monthly public meeting, Feb. 1, and publicly announced by written statement, "We doubt very seriously whether CORE's demands and announced methods of enforcing such demands represents the thinking of the responsible members of the Negro community"

The Board said they "invited representatives of the Tulsa Negro community to meet in the summer of 1963. . .in the wake of national integration."

Named among these representatives were Rev. Ben H. Hill, Rev. B. S. Roberts, Rev. George C. McCutchen, Atty. Amos T. Hall and M. M. Taylor, Tulsa Urban League Director.

Interviews with Rev. McCutchen and Rev. Hill revealed that there had not been a meeting of any nature with the board in the past nine months and that only two meetings were ever conducted.

Atty. Hall never attended a meeting and the initial meeting was held in the office of Booker T. Washing-

See GROUP——

CORE STATEMENT

To: The Tulsa Board of Education
From: The Tulsa Chapter of the Congress of Racial Equality.

We re-emphasize paragraph one, page one of our letter, which states that it is the responsibility of the Board of Education to take the responsibility in these matters.

We again request answer to our question (item three, page one) before Feb. 15, and also again make known that this is the deadline for any negotiation regarding other deadlines.

It is understandable that the Board of Education might attack the method by which the Congress of Racial Equality has gone about making these requests; however, we wish to re-emphasize that our requests have been made by other competent and knowledgeable persons in the past, and that their method of requesting educational improvements has been proper, but has brought few results. Please be assured that we do not intend to become involved in a discussion of the method in which we have made our requests. We wish the issues to be your primary concern, and refuse to let the discussion of method be a means of avoiding the issue.

If the Board of Education has requests which they wish answered, we will be glad to take them back to our organization for consideration and answers.

We wish to assure you that there are persons in the community who do not wish to be identified, who are supporting our requests, and will give continued advice and support.

SCHOOL BOARD STATEMENT

In the summer of 1963, representatives of the Tulsa Board of Education invited representatives of the Tulsa Negro community to meet with them informally for the purpose of attempting to resolve any educational problem that might arise in our community in the wake of national integration. Our invitation was promptly accepted and the representatives chosen by the Negro community were the Rev. Ben H. Hill, pastor of the Vernon Avenue Methodist Church, the Rev. B. S. Roberts, pastor of St. John's AME, the Rev. George C. McCutchen, pastor of Mt. Zion Baptist Church, Amos T. Hall, prominent Negro attorney, and Marion Taylor, Executive Director of the Urban League.

Channels of communication were thus established and those of us who attended the meetings that followed were impressed with the sincere desire of these extremely able men to work with representatives of the Tulsa Board of Education in an atmosphere of mutual respect and cordiality toward our common goal of constant re-examination and improvement of the educational program in this community. In view of the foregoing, the Tulsa Board of Education was somewhat surprised to receive a letter last month from the Congress of Racial Equality or CORE purporting to represent the Tulsa Negro community in certain demands for marked changes in our educational policies and procedures by May 1, 1965, at the latest. CORE's letter plainly states that if these demands are not met by the prescribed dates it will resort to the now familiar civil coercive measures it has utilized in other parts of our country and if they fail the letter implies that resort will be had to violence.

Having met with an outstanding group of Negro leaders in this community, we doubt very seriously whether CORE's demands and announced methods of enforcing such demands represents the thinking of the responsible members of the Tulsa Negro community. Our doubts in this regard are enforced by the fact that at the time CORE addressed this letter to the Tulsa Board of Education it also addressed a letter to a number of people in this community telling them to remain silent if they do not agree with CORE.

The members of the Tulsa Boa of Education are the duly elect representatives of the citizens of th school district charged with the r sponsibility of establishing educ tional policies and employing pr fessional personnel to implemen these policies to the end of providin the best educational program tha we can afford. This responsibilit extends to all the school childre of our district regardless of color We have discharged this responsibi lity to the best of our ability an will continue to do so. We do no propose — indeed we have no lega right — to delegate or abrogate ou responsibility to or in favor of an individual or group of individuals Notwithstanding the non-delegabl nature of our responsibilities, w are always willing to listen to con structive suggestions for the improve ment of our educational program made by responsible fair-minded in dividuals. We cannot and will no negotiate away our responsibilities We will not negotiate in secrecy under threats or with deadlines.

The issue raised by CORE is not by what means can we improve our educational program. This we are constantly striving to do. The issue, rather, is who shall direct your school system — the Board of Education or CORE. We resolve this issue here and now by stating that the Board of Education will continue to do so.

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See GROUP——
(continued on page 5)

ton high school principal Henry C. Whitlow. Whitlow told the Eagle that he was a School Board employee

Miss Binginggood told police that

GROUP

(continued from page 1)

and acted only in an advisory capacity to the group. However, each individual member stated that he was asked to participate on the committee by Whitlow.

The group stated that they had asked the School Board to consider practically the same inadequacies advanced by the CORE group and said they had not been acted upon. The primary difference was that the committee offered no solutions to the problems.

Taylor said that he is often misquoted by the metropolitan newspapers. The Urban League Director said he had not met with the Citizens Committee in a year. His observations were made through personal contact with Board of Education employees.

The consensus of the selected quintet (representatives of the Negroes) was that they had never met but twice, no plans were implemented and that some had knowledge of a "Citizens Committee" meeting to be hel Friday according to their advisor, Whitlow.

The integrated group of CORE made it clear to the Oklahoma Eagle that they will execute an exhaust all of their legal means to eradicate the image of the "so called Citizen's Committee" which has been hand picked by the school officials.

It is understandable that the Board of Education might attack the method by which the Congress of Racial Equality has gone about making these requests; however, we wish to re-emphasize that our requests have been made by other competent and knowledgeable persons in the past, and that their method of requesting educational improvements has been proper, but has brought

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RUARY 4, 1965 123 N. GREENWOOD TULSA, OKLAHOMA

HOOL BOARD SHUNS CORE PLANS

CORE STATEMENT

To: The Tulsa Board of Education

From: The Tulsa Chapter of the Congress of Racial Equality.

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If the Board of Education has requests which they wish answered, we will be glad to take them back to our organization for consideration and answers.

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Channels of communication were thus established and those of us who attended the meetings that followed were impressed with the sincere desire of these extremely able men to work with representatives of the Tulsa Board of Education in an atmosphere of mutual respect and cordiality toward our common goal of constant re-examination and improvement of the educational program in this community. In view of the foregoing, the Tulsa Board of Education was somewhat surprised to receive a letter last month from the Congress of Racial Equality or CORE purporting to represent the Tulsa Negro community in certain demands for marked changes in our educational policies and procedures by May 1, 1965, at the latest. CORE's letter plainly states that if these demands are not met by the prescribed dates it will resort to the now familiar civil coercive measures it has utilized in other parts of our country and if they fail the letter implies that resort will be had to violence.

Having met with an outstanding group of Negro leaders in this community, we doubt very seriously whether CORE's demands and announced methods of enforcing such demands represents the thinking of the responsible members of the Tulsa Negro community. Our doubts in this regard are enforced by the fact that at the time CORE addressed this letter to the Tulsa Board of Education it also addressed a letter to a number of people in this community telling them to remain silent if they do not agree with CORE.

The members of the Tulsa Board of Education are the duly elected representatives of the citizens of this school district charged with the responsibility of establishing educational policies and employing professional personnel to implement these policies to the end of providing the best educational program that we can afford. This responsibility extends to all the school children of our district regardless of color. We have discharged this responsibility to the best of our ability and will continue to do so. We do not propose — indeed we have no legal right — to delegate or abrogate our responsibility to or in favor of any individual or group of individuals. Notwithstanding the non-delegable nature of our responsibilities, we are always willing to listen to constructive suggestions for the improvement of our educational program made by responsible fair-minded individuals. We cannot and will not negotiate away our responsibilities. We will not negotiate in secrecy, under threats or with deadlines.

The issue raised by CORE is not by what means can we improve our educational program. This we are constantly striving to do. The issue, rather, is who shall direct your school system — the Board of Education or CORE. We resolve this issue here and now by stating that the Board of Education will continue to do so.

2-3-65

Tulsa World 2-3-65

CORE SCHOOL PLANS NIXED

School Chief Calls Proposals 'Setback'

School policy changes demanded by Congress of Racial Equality Monday were termed a "setback to education in Tulsa" Tuesday by Dr. Charles C. Mason, superintendent.

Dr. Mason presented his views during a meeting of the Tulsa

See 'Who Shall Run Our Schools?' On Page 6

City Council of Parent-Teacher Associations. CORE demands were rejected Monday by the Board of Education.

Handing out copies of the demands to the 300 persons attending the council meeting, Dr. Mason said, "I give you this with sorrow. I do not think this is the direction our schools should go. I think it would constitute a setback."

System Advanced

He said Tulsa's system has made great progress since the 1954 U.S. Supreme Court ruling calling for school desegregation. He also noted Tulsa has been more advanced in this field than most systems.

Dr. Mason asked council members to read the CORE demands so they (members) would be informed about what really is happening and not have to rely on rumors.

Marion M. Taylor, executive director of Tulsa's Urban League, said he has been "encouraged" by the progress of the Negro citizens committee which has been working with board members. Taylor is a member of the committee.

Progress 'Slow'

"Progress has been slow," said Taylor, "but our complete committee has been encouraged because the school board has never flatly rejected any of our requests, and there have been many." The committee was established in 1963.

"We have not been able to get everything we wanted," said Taylor, "but we realize some of these things take time. We will continue to work with the school board toward achieving the best possible education for all people."

2-4-65

Tulsa Tribune 2-4-65

Would Unite CORE, Board

Negro Legislator Aims For Tulsa School Peace

Rep. Curtis Lawson, the only Tulsa Negro holding an elected public office, said today he will try to serve as "peacemaker" between Congress of Racial Equality leaders and the Tulsa Board of Education.

Lawson has called a meeting at 8 tonight in the recreation hall of St. Augustine's Catholic Church, 1736 E. Pine St., to determine the extent of support for the CORE demands.

CORE wants accelerated integration and more special education services for Negro students. The school board, resenting deadline ultimatums included in CORE's demands, rejected all the proposals.

Lawson has talked with Dr. Charles C. Mason, superintendent of schools, in an effort to learn more abut the progress of a Negro citizens' committee which has been working with school officials since 1963.

"I BELIEVE BOTH CORE and the school board are acting in good faith but I feel there has been a breakdown of communications," Lawson said.

Meanwhile, members of the school board plan to meet Friday with the Negro citizens' committee composed of the Revs. Ben H. Hill, B.S. Roberts and George McCutchen, attorney Amos T. Hall and M. M. Taylor, executive secretary of the Tulsa Urban League.

CORE leaders have invited members of the Negro citizens' committee to meet with them Friday night. C. L. Robinson, Tulsa CORE chapter president, said school board members also would be welcome.

2-5-65

2-5-65

Negro Rights Move Here Stepped Up

Plans for accelerating school integration and upgrading Negro education in public schools here were moving in two directions today.

1. Members of the Tulsa Board of Education were scheduled to meet this afternoon with a five-member Negro citizens committee on schools to continue talks begun with that group in 1963.

2. Formation of the Community Development Council was announced at a predominately Negro rally Thursday night. The council plans to hold a series of public hearings on Negro school conditions during the next month and publicize its report and reommendations.

BOTH EFFORTS WERE touched off last Monday with the publication of a long list of demands submitted to the school board by the Congress of Racial Equality. The board refused to negotiate with CORE.

The CORE leadership was present at Thursday night's rally and some CORE officers also are officers in the new Community Development Council.

Rep. Curtis Lawson, Tulsa's first Negro elected to public office, said at the Thursday night rally he didn't expect CORE to take any demonstrative action in connection with schools until the CDC series of public hearings were completed and a report written.

Police records show Freeman was arrested last June 19 for the theft of $99 worth of clothing from Froug's Downtown Store where he was then employed as a window display arranger. A felony charge of grand larceny was reduced to a misdemeanor.

Lawson said all northside school principals would be invited to speak at the public hearings. Dates for them will be announced soon.

IN ANOTHER DEVELOPMENT, Eugene Stanley (Ray) Freeman, chairman of the CORE education committee and one of the signers of the demands to the school board, offered his resignation from that post when it was disclosed he has a police record. CORE leaders said they refused to accept the resignation.

District Court records show Freeman has been on probation

See RIGHTS, page 40

November 1964. He was unopposed and took office in January when a new term started.

Rights

Continued from page 25

since last October when he was given a one-year sentence after pleading guilty to at charge of malicious mischief. His record also shows a $16 fine for assault in 1960 and three arrests for trespassing during racial demonstrations last summer.

Lawson said other leaders in the Community Development Council organization are Hubert Bryant, an assistant city attorney, and William Earl Reynolds.

"WHO REPRESENTS THE northside is not the business of the Board of Education," Lawson told the rally, which was attended by about 100 Negroes and 25 white persons.

"We must be willing to negotiate if that gets results," he said. "We must be willing to demonstrate if that gets results.

"This is a new civil rights battle this year. The burden of responsibility has shifted back to the Negro today with the passage of federal civil rights legislation. If we can't get results picketing and demonstrating, we'll have to do something else. But we can't be unsophisticated educated slobs," Lawson said.

LAWSON SAID THE CDC WILL concentrate on better jobs and job training for Negroes, better education opportunities, and voter registration.

He said the organization plans to sell one million seals "similar to Christmas seals" for one cent each to raise $10,000 for financing its program.

The Negro schools committee is composed of the Revs. Ben H. Hill, B. S. Roberts, George McCutchen, and attorney Amos Hall and Marion Taylor, executive director of the Tulsa Urban League.

CITY SCHOOL, NEGRO TALKS OPEN TODAY

CORE Promises No Further Action Until Survey Ends

Three members of Tulsa's Board of Education expect to sit down at 2 p.m. Friday with five Negro leaders to discuss school integration, although State Rep. Curtis Lawson told some 125 persons who attended a Rally to Education Thursday night that the "committee of five" does not exist.

"I don't want to be placed in a position of offending the Board of Education or defending CORE," said Lawson at St. Augustine's Roman Catholic Church gymnasium, "but who shall represent the north side is a matter for the north side to decide and not for the Board of Education.

"This day of calling up and saying 'we want to talk to these respectable members of your community' is over and I am not going to sanction it," Lawson asserted. His statement was greeted with cheers and applause.

Survey Awaited

Lawson also told the gathering that the Congress of Racial Equality has agreed to take no further action until a survey of the Negro educational situation in Tulsa is completed. It is to be conducted by the Community Development Council, recently organized by Lawson.

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SCHOOLS, page 26

2-5-65

2-5-65

People's Forum

Short letters will be given preference for publication and all letters must be signed with a bona fide name and address. Initials only will be published if requested. No letters will be returned.

Comments on CORE Proposal

Editor, The Tribune:

Fenelon Boesche and the Board of Education are to be commended on their firm stand against a group whose violence-threatening words suggest the methods of the shakedown artist. Few will argue against the need for equality for Negroes, but when CORE presumes to dictate how a civil board is to run its affairs, and under threat of a "long hot summer," we may well ask if there is any connection between this organization and others constantly striving to incite hatred in matters of human misery. . . .

CORE seems to be stirring up animosities, rather than promoting a peaceful solution. . . . Instead of threatening to set back Tulsa race relations 40 years, CORE could better spend its energy, and in a more Christian manner, by working at the causes of the evils it lists.

Tulsa — WALT NOVELLY

Editor, The Tribune:

Who do the authors of the letter that was published in The Tulsa Tribune on February 2 actually represent? Who does the Congress of Racial Equality represent? With the demands they are making on the Board of Education you would think they were representing the majority of Tulsa County. . . .

I would like to commend the Rev. Ben Hill, Rev. B. S. Roberts, Rev. George McCutchen and Mrs. Amos T. Hall for their efforts and cooperation. . . .

Demands such as the ones made to the Board of Education would not only hurt the colored people but would hurt all school children. . . .

Tulsa — J. P. M.

Editor, The Tribune:

As I look back on my childhood I recall most vividly name-calling such as Dago, Wop, Sheenee, etc. The seed of an inferiority complex was planted which altered the course of my life. No, I am not colored, but what difference is there between race or color? The effects are the same. It is still prejudice one way or another.

If we are equal in the eyes of the law and our Maker, why are some of our citizens degraded and subjected to all forms of hate, simply because of their color? . . .

Can anyone blame CORE in promoting all their efforts to better the welfare of its people, not above, but only equal to all of us? I sincerely hope that a mutual and successful solution can be arrived at by the said parties. . . .

Pawhuska — GEORGE FERRIS ESSEY

Editor, The Tribune:

Commendation and gratitude are certainly in order to the president of the Board of Education, and to the board members in agreement, for the recent stand taken in answer to the demands made by CORE.

We are aware that there are faults in our school system as there are faults in this great land of ours; but we must also be aware that there are many who would like to have us, under the guise of correcting these faults, destroy the very system we are trying to preserve.

Tulsa — MRS. PAUL JOHNSON

Fire Safety Suggestion

Editor, The Tribune:

There was a time when our city officials, knowing a building to be unsafe, condemned it . . . If our present city officials know a building is unsafe, the public is entitled to have that knowledge, whether it be decripit 50-year-old building or a modern fire trap.

If it should be considered poor business to condem recently constructed buildings which do not comply with the city building codes, at least, certificates could be given to owners of those buildings which do comply. If this were done, owners of buildings, unable to display such a certificate, would find themselves without tenants. And the display of such a certificate might reassure newcomers that Tulsa is a safe place to live.

Tulsa — W. H.

CITY SCHOOL, NEGRO TALKS OPEN TODAY

CORE Promises No Further Action Until Survey Ends

Three members of Tulsa's Board of Education expect to sit down at 2 p.m. Friday with five Negro leaders to discuss school integration, although State Rep. Curtis Lawson told some 125 persons who attended a Rally to Education Thursday night that the "committee of five" does not exist.

"I don't want to be placed in a position of offending the Board of Education or defending CORE," said Lawson at St. Augustine's Roman Catholic Church gymnasium, "but who shall represent the north side is a matter for the north side to decide and not for the Board of Education.

"This day of calling up and saying 'we want to talk to these respectable members of your community' is over and I am not going to sanction it," Lawson asserted. His statement was greeted with cheers and applause.

Survey Awaited

Lawson also told the gathering that the Congress of Racial Equality has agreed to take no further action until a survey of the Negro educational situation in Tulsa is completed. It is to be conducted by the Community Development Council, recently organized by Lawson.

He estimated that the report, which will include the results of three public hearings to be conducted by William Earl Reynolds of CDC, will be ready in about 30 days. Lawson said that Hubert Bryant, assistant city attorney, will assist in conducting the hearings and in preparing the report. The principals of all North Tulsa schools will be invited.

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See SCHOOLS, page 26

SCHOOLS

Continued from Pg. 1, Sec. 2

following his 1961 arrest. Court records reveal no disposition or action.

Fenelon Boesche, board president; Carl C. Beesley, immediate past president, and Mrs. Ridge Bond will serve as the liaison committee for the school board.

Negro leaders who are expected to attend the 2 p.m. meeting at the Education Service Center are the Rev. Ben H. Hill, the Rev. B. S. Roberts, the Rev. George C. McCutchen, Amos Hall, Tulsa attorney, and Marion M. Taylor, executive director of the Urban League.

Subject of Talks

Dr. Charles C. Mason, school superintendent, said the discussion probably will involve the 14 recommendations submitted by the five Negro leaders after the board and the Negro community representatives first got together in 1963, Many of them, Dr. Mason said, were adopted in the demands presented to the board Monday by CORE.

"This meeting doesn't involve CORE at all," Mason said, "but is just another session between the board and the five original Negro committeemen who began integration discussions in 1963."

C. L. Robinson, CORE president, presided at the "rally to education," billed as a test of the Negro community's interest in the education situation, although CORE officers made it plain earlier that the rally was not sponsored by CORE.

Lawson devoted the major part of his address to outlining the wide scope of CDC's proposed program, and to urging members of the Negro community to work together.

The state representative reminded his listeners that the civil rights movement is not the same in 1965 as it was in 1964. "We must be ready to negotiate and arbitrate, and to demonstrate only when it is proven that negotiation is no longer possible," he advised. "Too many lives have been put forth in this movement to have it ruined by over-zealous picketers."

Appeal Applauded

Lawson asserted, "we don't need any more organizations. We've got to learn to work together as a unit. When we have 57 organizations giving out 57 press releases on the same subject, the public can only conclude that there are a bunch of idiots over there trying to do something.'"

The audience responded with loud applause when Lawson urged, "If direct action is not the most expeditious path in 1965, throw it out and get something else that will work. Use what has been done to build on, and not to hide behind."

The state representative said he expects the cooperation of CORE, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and the Urban League, and urged, "Stop patting yourselves on the back. This is a new day. The college graduate doesn't need any help in getting a job.

"Sixty-five per cent of those who are employable in North Tulsa are unemployed or underemployed. Get some of the boys who don't have a high school education a job."

Tulsa

TO: ALL RADIO AND TV STATIONS - Not to be released before 5:55 p.m. Monday, February 15.

FROM: CORE

The Tulsa Board of Education nears its deadline for responding to the Tulsa Chapter of the Congress of Racial Equality. In the original January 14th letter sent to the Tulsa Board of Education by CORE, the civil rights group requested that if the Board of Education wished to make any changes regarding the deadline dates stated in the letter, they would have to negotiate within thirty days.

"Yesterday was really the deadline," explains CORE Chairman, C. L. Robinson, "but we would have accepted a response today, since yesterday was a Sunday."

The original letter also states that the Board give answer to the organization within 30 (thirty) days about its ability to deal with such interracial matters as "teacher integration, cultural lag, training in human relations for teachers, etc." "Since they have chosen to ignore us we take for granted their answer is negative," says Mr. Robinson. "We have now made binding this request with the others, that is, that a special consultant be hired by May 1, to assist the Board of Education and School Administration in correcting imbalance in education in Tulsa."

Will be delivered Tues. 11th

TO: MEMBERS OF THE TULSA BOARD OF EDUCATION
Mr. F. Boesche
Mr. Carl Beesley
Mrs. Virgil O. Wood
Mr. William L. Butler
Mr. Lahman D. Jones
Mrs Ridge Bond
Mrs. Opal Carlison

We feel very strongly that the belief in the individual worth and dignity of every person is the foundation of our way of life. We hold this belief to be the cornerstone of a system of public education. Our American heritage is based upon the belief that the individual has certain unalienable rights and that all people are equal before our basic institutions of society. Therefore, we feel that the major aim of any educational program should be to enhance individual dignity and to make possible the fullest realization of the abilities and skills of every student. We also feel that a very high priority must be given to the development of attitudes and values of thought and action which are necessary to the achievement of individual and societal well-being. It is the aim of the Tulsa Chapter of the Congress of Racial Equality to see to it that this is done in Tulsa.

We submit that the Board of Education had 30 days in which to answer the question: "Does the Board of Education-School Administration know how to deal with such interracial matters as teacher integration, cultural lag, training in human relations for teachers, etc.?" The Board of Education has refused to answer, thus leaving us no alternative but to assume the answer to be negative. Therefore, our request that a special consultant be hired by the Board of Education by May 1, 1965, is now binding.

Therefore, also, we now make it known that the deadlines stated in the letter of January 14, shall stand. The letter clearly stated, "We consider dates given to be deadlines and they shall stand unless agreement regarding any changes shall have been made within 30 days of receipt of this letter."

The Education Committee of the Tulsa Chapter of
the Congress of Racial Equality -

Mr. Ray Freeman, Committee Chairman

Mr. C. L. Robinson, Chairman, Tulsa CORE

TULSA DAILY WORLD

Editorials "Oklahoma's Greatest Newspaper"
EUGENE LORTON
1869-1949

Page 6 Wednesday, February 3, 1965

Published Every Weekday Morning and Sunday by World Publishing Company
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BIBLE THOUGHT

If thou canst believe, all things are possible.—Mark 9:23.

Who Shall Run Our Schools?

THE TULSA Board of Education has taken exactly the right position in response to irresponsible demands made by the Congress of Racial Equality.

The position is that the Board is responsible for running the Tulsa schools and it cannot turn the job over to CORE or to anybody else. In the language of the statement by FENLON BOESCHE, Board President:

"The issue raised by CORE *is not by what means can we improve our educational program. This we are constantly striving to do.*

"The issue, rather, is who shall direct your school system—the Board of Education or CORE. *We resolve this issue here and now by stating that the Board of Education will continue to do so."*

The Board must *not* be deterred from this stand by any threats, direct or implied, and regardless of the "long, hot summer" promised by CORE. In fact, the very threat of pressure, picketing and demonstrations merely serves to emphasize how right is the Board's decision.

Let us be clear about one basic fact. There can be no quarrel with the goal of better education for Negroes. No one is more aware of this need than the members of the Board.

BOESCHE acknowledged that when he recalled that the Board invited and met with prominent Tulsa Negro leaders in 1963 to discuss problems of integrated education here. Representatives of the Negro community who have taken part in discussions since that time include MARION TAYLOR, Executive Director of the Tulsa Urban League, attorney AMOS T. HALL and three ministers, the Revs. BEN H. HILL, GEORGE C. MCCUTCHEN and B. S. ROBERTS.

CORE obviously is dissatisfied with the progress made by this group. It wants to move in and take over. It has worked out its own system of teacher assignment; it calls for special training for Negro teachers and administrators; it insists that Negro schools be not only as good as other schools, but *better;* it sets up deadlines for the Board to meet. And as if to show how ridiculous its ideas can become, CORE demands that history textbooks be adjusted to keep from showing that "it was the white people who built our nation."

In short, CORE has set up such an absurd set of conditions for the Board that its leaders could not have expected them to be met. Thus, it must be that the demands are merely a pretext; an excuse to justify some other actions when the Board took the only position it could legally or logically take.

If CORE is really interested in trying to get something done, the door is open. The Board of Education must constantly seek better ways to serve all Tulsa school children. Perhaps some of the CORE program, such as improved vocational counseling for Negro high school students, can be brought about—but *not* by threats of what may be done if it is not achieved by some arbitrary date.

The presumptuous, almost arrogant, approach made by CORE is exactly the *wrong* way to improve school facilities. Reasonable men of good will—of both races—can accomplish much in this complicated field of human relations. They are far better qualified than those who know only the militant demand, the upraised fist and the street-corner demonstration.

The Tulsa Tribune

RICHARD LLOYD JONES
(1873-1963)

RICHARD L. JONES, JR.
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City Editor
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Associate Editor

Published every weekday at 315-17 South Boulder Ave., Tulsa, Oklahoma, 74102

Tuesday, February 2, 1965

Idiocy in Selma

Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. owes a deep debt of gratitude to the city and county officials in Selma, Alabama. No activist could ask more. For Reverend King's opponents have made a martyr of him and fools of themselves.

The idiocy got under way when the Alabama legislature imposed a 20-page test for voting qualifications on government and the Constitution which it intended for no other purpose than to confound Negroes who might try to register. There was no plan to apply the same test against white applicants.

Then in Selma Sheriff James Clark decreed that Negroes attempting to register must line up in the alley and enter the Court House through a rear door. This was not required of white applicants, and was a bald attempt to humiliate colored citizens.

And Monday Reverend King and 300 of his followers were arrested for proceeding in a body from a colored church to the Court House because they had failed to get a permit to parade.

Now, it's time for some common sense to descend on Alabama.

Granted that CORE, the NAACP and all the professional civil rights groups in America are equally intent on humiliating white Alabamians. The technique of rubbing salt into raw wounds, of descending on a resentful little town with scores of preachers, northern college students, reporters from the metropolitan press, TV cameramen, etc. is an obvious method of inviting martyrdom.

But the great grandstand play would have flopped if the people of Alabama and particularly of Selma had used their heads. Who really thinks that a phony test of "voter qualifications" is going to last for two minutes in the U.S. Supreme Court? Who can really imagine that anything was gained by herding Negroes, who had appeared in quest of a legal right, into an alley?

And suppose Reverend King and his followers were technically guilty of parading. As long as they didn't block traffic longer than a passing Southern Railway freight train who was really inconvenienced?

The plain fact is that Negroes are citizens, that the courts have held that citizens may vote, that efforts to make registration difficult and ballot-casting impossible are bound to be defeated in the end, and that these rear-guard actions of harassment will boomerang.

Many Southern whites fear that Negro voting in counties where the colored population is heavy if not preponderant will result in the election of poorer candidates and general maladministration. But this is conviction before the crime. And it would be hard to imagine a less scientific method of separating competent from incompetent voters than by skin pigment.

The South is going to have to throw in the towel in its efforts to discourage Negro registration and the sooner it does so with good grace the better for its own interests.

Haley Feb 1, 1965

Tulsa Chapter CORE Officers

P O Box No. 6158

Chairman	C. L. Robinson	1323 N. Lansing
1st Vice Chm.	Homer Johnson	516 N. Frankfort Pl.
2nd Vice Chm.	Bob Brown	2503 N. Peoria
Secretary	Alice Cornelius	1334 E. Reading
Corres. Sec.	Vickie Dickeson	3914 E. 54th St.
Treasurer	Pastor Karl Thiele	235 W.Zion
Membership Chm.	John Fortner	625 E. Zion
Finance Chm.	Eugene Cornelious	439 Seminole P.
Project Chm.	Bob Eaton	3131 N. Utica
Communications	Lula Fortner	625 E. Zion
Public Relations	Shirlie Scoggins	2234 N. Main
Parliamentarian	Dan Dryz	2158 S 76th E. Ave.
Sargeant at Arms	Carol Sherman	13 E. Apache

cc: Richard Haley
Isaac Reynolds

Ike Reynolds

Tulsa

CORE SOUTHERN OFFICE
2209 Dryades Street
New Orleans, Louisiana 70113

February 24, 1965

Mr. Tommie L. Thomas
3748 N. Hartford
Tulsa, Oklahoma

Dear Mr. Thomas:

Your letter and news clippings regarding your problems with the Board of Education sing a tune that is in some respects familiar. For instance, most large cities have trouble in trying to deal with desegregation of schools; even if the school board is liberal, matching Negro ghetto children to schools; scattered all over the city presents a problem. Another familiar strain is the plaintive cry of school boards that CORE is attempting to run the school system by "pressure". Still another problem is that any large Negro community frequently has several sets of leaders at the same time, usually with varying degrees of militance.

Your presentation to the school board is a real credit to CORE. I am especially grateful you sent the news clippings containing the presentation itself and the reactions of the school board and the local paper. Some of the other communities in the Southern area which have not progressed as far as you, could likely get valuable suggestions from the proposals brought up by Tulsa CORE; this office tentatively plans fo reproduce your proposal in brief and distribute them throughout at least a part of the southern area. It will also help in drawing up such a paper for distribution, if we can keep informed of the progress of your negotiations with the school board. I hope we can maintain correspondence in that regard.

The latest publications from National office are the "Freedom Schools" leaflet and the January February CORE-lator. If you need either of these, or any other piece of literature, please let me know.

Isaac Reynolds is slated to take charge of CORE's West coast office, beginning within a week or so. I would like very much to receive a letter from you giving a reaction to his work in Tulsa.

If there is any other way in which I can be of help, please let me know.

Sincerely,

Richard Haley
CORE Southern Office

RH/vjj

Ans

February 3, 1965

Southern Regional CORE Headquarters
2209 Dryades St.
New Orleans, La.

Gentlemen:

The public schools in the predominently Negro section of North Tulsa are now and have always been inferior to those of South Tulsa. The Tulsa chapter of CORE is now engaged in a battle with the Board of Education in regard to a letter of requests for educational improvements in North Tulsa. I believe you have in your possession a copy of that letter. These same requests have been made countless times in the past by many people, but the Board of Education has always succeeded in evading the issue.

Our local newspapers are never in favor of any move toward integration, and their reporting is extremely biased. (If the enclosed articles concerning CORE do not prove this statement, you might want to examine the other editorial, which I have enclosed entitled "Idiocy in Selma.") I have underlined and numbered the major discrepancies in the articles, and will briefly explain them.

(1) The committee of five Negro leaders met only twice (over a year ago) and discussed the very same problems CORE has stated. No action has been taken as a result of these two meetings, and no further meetings have occurred.

(2) The underlined are the only committee members who ever met with the Board of Education.

(3) Channels of communication have not been established at all.

(4) The "meetings that followed" number one!

(5) Our letter definitely did not imply a threat of violence.

(6) Four of the five leaders named as "responsible members of the Negro community are in full accord with CORE's requests. We do represent the community. Our Negro congressman, Curtis Lawson, is going to address a rally this Thursday night for the purpose of supporting the CORE proposals.

(7) If the responsibility of the School Board extends to all children, regardless of color, why is it commonly known that the Negro schools lack proper equipment for industrial arts training, that there are no vocational counselors, that students wishing to take classical foreign languages must transfer out of their district to receive college preparatory material, to name only a few problems.

(8) This is a misquote. C. L. said "We will use whatever lawful means are at our disposal." When asked if this meant demonstrations,

he replied,, "That is a possibility."

(9) CORE would like to know where this "great progress" has been made.

(10) Marion Taylor has had nothing constructive to do or say in the field of education. He told our Education Committee last night (2-2-65) that the paper misquoted him, and that he agreed with CORE's requests. However, he refused to print a retraction of this statement.

(11) They have never been flatly rejected because they have never been flatly asked for!

(12) A letter stating the number of CORE representatives, and a wish to make one statement, was sent to the Board of Education one week prior to the public meeting.

We have already contacted some of the community leaders listed in the papers, and we think that it might be possible to persuade them to insist on the reactivation of their committee with the Board of Education. Along with this, we are attempting to show the Board of Education that CORE has the solid backing of the Negro community.

Sincerely,

Tommie L. Thomas
For
Mr. Ray Freeman,
Chairman, CORE Education Committee

April 12, 1965

TO: The Tulsa Board of Education

FROM: The Tulsa Chapter of the Congress of Racial Equality

The words of our last letter are sincerely meant: "We are most pleased to note all the signs of progress related to educational concern and action within the last two months which have been evident in our city. We are certain that the Board of Education has played an important role in stimulating many persons in our city to begin steps in the direction of necessary educational reforms, especially those related to the Negro community." In order that you know specifically what it is that pleases us we have listed the items below. These are then followed by items about which we are most disturbed, and thirdly we have requests.

I. We are pleased that:

1) Within recent weeks the Board of Education has recognized CORE as a responsible group which has some important items to make known to the Board. We refer to your authorization of the Superintendent's letter of March 22 and the letter of April 8 from Chairman Boesche.
2) Plans are underway regarding two important requests in our original letter, namely text book changes and human relations training for school personnel.
3) Plans are underway regarding a pre-Kindergarten program during the coming summer and the coming school year.
4) Cooperation has been evident on the part of the School Administration with the Tulsa Council of Churches and other interested agencies of our city to initiate a city-wide program of tutoring.
5) The Board has consented to be involved in public appearances to make known its feelings and to listen to Tulsa citizens regarding racial segregation and integration in the schools. (See Tulsa World of yesterday regarding "Churchman's Forum")
6) The Board of Education has already returned to Washington, D.C. form No. 441 pledging that there is no discrimination practiced in the school system which allows Tulsa to continue to receive Federal funds if the already signed statement can be verified.

We are certain that many citizens in our city share the complimentary feelings of CORE with regard to these progressive steps and we look forward to more detailed plans and increased concern regarding educational needs on the part of the Board in future weeks. We have begun to think that the Tulsa Board of Education may possibly be the first to make Charles Silberman's words outdated: "...no city in the United States has even begun to face up to the problem involved in educating Negro - or for that matter, white - slum youngsters." (Crisis in Black and White, page 249)

II. We are disturbed because:

1) There has been no indication to take advantage of assistance available to the Tulsa School system to rectify the past history of segregation in our city. Specifically, "Section 403 of Title IV authorizes the Commissioner to render technical assistance in preparation, adoption, and implementation of plans for the desegregation of public elementary and secondary schools...This technical assistance may include, among other activities, information regarding effective methods and personnel especially equipped to assist in coping with special educational problems..." (See GPO 884-658 "Assistance on Special Education Problems Occasioned by School Desegregation")
2) There seems to be the general feeling that "we have achieved" in racial integration in our schools. We are aware of the progress made in pupil integration; however, we

consider the present situation of staff and teacher personnel integration to be far from adequate. Example: It was stated in the "Progress Report" and by the Tulsa Tribune on February 13, that one of the signs of progress in teacher integration is the fact that "...one virtually all-Negro elementary school - Burroughs - has a white principal and a Negro assistant principal." It is well known that the principal at Burroughs was not chosen to administer an all-Negro school but remained at his post as the school changed racially. We know of other school personnel, both Negro and white, who are willing to be involved in interracial situations. We believe that adequate teacher and staff integration will have taken place when school personnel are hired and placed, city-wide, without regard to color. Again we wish to reiterate our requests and suggestions in our original letter, part I, page one regarding Teacher Integration.

3) Generalities have been reported in the news media to give the impression that "we have achieved" in other areas of integration also. Example: Regarding the request made in our original letter pertaining to the teaching of Negro history (Part II, B, page two) the Tulsa Tribune stated about the "Progress Report" that it "showed the system's junior and senior highs now have in libraries 591 books on the Negro and his contribution to the American society." The facts show that at Washington High School there are 438 of these books, 17 at Marian Anderson and 89 at Carver. The report gives the impression that every secondary student in our city has enough books available in his school to become acquainted with the contribution made by Negroes in the history of our nation. We know that Negroes are receiving this type of history, but it is the white student who needs to be educated regarding the part Negroes played in the history of our nation and all white students have apparently only 47 books to inform them about Negroes in the history of our nation.
4) There are deliberate efforts, both overt and covert, to segregate substitute teachers. Example: Principals hold segregated lists of substitute teachers.
5) There have been deplorable instances of violations of good human relations practices in the treatment of students. Verification of such instances can be gotten and given to the Board of Education only with written assurance that neither student nor teacher will be penalized. This is necessary because of mounting fear on the part of citizens, including school personnel, to voice their feelings regarding such violations.
6) Special attention must be given to special needs in our educational system. Equality in education cannot be guided nor brought about by equal expenditures for all schools and for all pupils. Equality must be guided by educational need in specific areas of our city.
7) Finances are used as a reason why methods proven to be correct and useful cannot be carried out. We are certain that if the Board of Education would publicly state its policies regarding necessary reforms that the public and especially the able leadership in our city will respond with assistance in gaining the necessary funds for such improvements. We believe that finances, although extremely important, are not the only basis on which to operate a school system. We suggest that a more forthright appeal to the public be made by the Board of Education stating their policy decisions which need special financial support.
8) The Board of Education apparently allows news reporters to state policies of the Board in writing after the Board has verbally agreed what the policy should be. We are convinced that much public apathy regarding educational needs and reforms in our city is due to the fact that the Board of Education does not put into writing its decisions and policies. We are convinced that if this were done the public would be more willing to support our educational system.
9) In the entire investigation of the NEA in which 300 persons were interviewed not a single one mentioned racial problems. However, we are more disturbed by the explanation of this fact given by Dr. Carr, Executive Director of the NEA: "...this failure to discuss the racial aspects of education (is attributed) to an even broader concern -- grossly inadequate educational opportunity for the great majority of children in the state."
10) Of the fact that the boundaries of some schools seem to be deliberately set to evade increased pupil integration. Example: The Atchison, Topeka, and Santa Fe railroad running northeast from downtown forms the south and east boundary of the new school at

1661 E. Virgin even though the tracks are within three blocks of the school at the nearest point. The western boundary extends eight blocks west of Peoria (1300 E.), a street more dangerous to cross than any railroad tracks, and extend westward across the Midland Valley railroad. We conclude this to be a deliberate effort to include only Negro pupils in this school.

11) Of the fact that the Board of Education has stated to the Department of Health, Education and Welfare that there is no discrimination practiced in the school system. We believe such a signed statement to be in error and assure the Board that unless steps are taken to eliminate discriminatory practices mentioned herein and other injustices, we have no alternative but to report such discrimination to the Department of Health, Education and Welfare.

III. Therefore the following:

1) We request that the Board of Education become completely familiar with the Civil Rights Act and all information pertaining to Title IV and VI if you have not done so and that the attorney for the Board, Mr. C.H. Rosenstein be requested by you to give his written legal opinion regarding the expectations of the Federal government and that CORE be furnished with a copy of his opinion. We further request that the Board make known to us in a written statement detailed plans concerning how and when it intends to comply with the requirements of the Federal government. We submit to each of you a March 20 issue of the Saturday Review for your study - page 60 ff.

2) We request that immediate steps be taken to avail ourselves of technical assistance offered under Title IV of the Civil Rights Act so that "consultants with special knowledge relative to the problems involved or with experience in situations comparable to that of the applicant..." (GPO 884-658) may guide our city in doing all that is necessary to comply with the non-discriminatory statement signed by the Board of Education, form No. 441. Allow us to quote the words of one of our distinguished Tulsans, Mr. Alfred Aaronson, who spoke these words to representatives of the Board and the Citizens Committee: "Federal funds are available for teacher training in human relations under the Civil Rights Act and for remedial work with the underprivileged under the Economic Opportunity Act. Now, what is the alternative if we do not avail ourselves of this assistance and these programs and correct discriminatory conditions? It can certainly involve direct court action to effect many of these changes. Let us consider the Oklahoma City experience as a pattern. The NAACP pressed its demands for a fairer distribution of students and teachers -- and when they reached an impasse with the Board of Education, they filed suit. This has been a long and costly procedure at the School Board's expense. Meanwhile, there has been bad temper, bad press, and bad image for the school system which was unable to solve its own problems locally."

3) We request that immediate attention be given to those requests of our original letter that have not yet been considered (some mentioned herein and some not mentioned) and that at the convenience of the Board we be given permission to negotiate new deadlines regarding these apparently unconsidered requests within the coming month.

4) We wish it understood that there has been much pressure from various sources requesting why it is that CORE has not yet used direct action, insinuating a lack of integrity on our part. We want you to know and all the public to know and be sure that it is the Board of Education and not those who pressure or chide us that will be the determining factor in whether or not direct action shall be used by CORE.

We are pleased and much encouraged that direct communication has now been established with you. It is our hope that this is the beginning of a cooperative effort to improve our educational system for the benefit of our entire citizenry.

C.L. Robinson, Chairman of CORE

Ray Freeman, Education Committee Chairman

Farmer

[1965, April?]

Mr. James Farmer
National Director
Congress of Racial Equality
38 Park Row
New York, New York

Dear Mr. Farmer:

The Tulsa Chapter of CORE plans to celebrate its First Anniversary in April, and since this will be our very first anniversary we would like it to be a memorable occasion for our fellow Tulsans as well as those who have worked with us so untiringly. We can think of no greater honor or privilege than having you, our National Director as guest speaker for the occasion and we hope it will be possible for you to accept our invitation.

Two alternative dates have been suggested for the program, April 11th and April 25th. If neither of these dates is to your convience please let us know what day in April is convient for you. Also, you might suggest a time.

I shall be glad to write to you at a later date regarding further details of the program, but if we may have your acceptance, it will help us to plan an effective program.

Yours for freedom,

Eugene Cornelious
Finance Committee Chairman

EC/ac

cc: Marvin Rich
Richard Haley
Bruce Baines

Tulsa

A REPORT ON TULSA, OKLAHOMA,
SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS AND DALLAS TEXAS

May 14, 1965

Doing the last two months, the Tulsa Core Chapter , have been trying to get a negoiation with the school Board. The School Board have refused to meet with CORE. Within the last (2) weeks the School Board have had two meetings with CORE about their demands.

Enclosed is a letter the CORE CHAPTER sent to the School Board. The CORE Chapter also has been checking on the Federal programs approved by H E W to recieve Federal money in Tulsa.

The CORE Chapter in San Antonio for the Last month has been checking on Federal programs that's been approved by the H E W to receive Federal Monies in San Antonio and near by towns. The Chapter is also working on employment in the downtown San Antonio, Texas.

The CORE Chapter in Dallas has been working on local membership drive and checking on the Company receiving Federal money in Dallas. They are also doing research on Baylor Hospital which have segregated wards for negro and white.

Yours for Freedom,

Bruce Baines,
Field Secretary

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SOUTHERN

Regional
Files

Reports
Tennessee

1902, July - Dec,
1904, July

a national organization with affiliated local groups working

CONGRESS OF RACIAL EQUALITY CORE

to abolish racial discrimination by direct, nonviolent methods

38 PARK ROW
NEW YORK 38, NEW YORK
COrtlandt 7-6270

James Farmer
national director
Rrchard Haley
assistant to the director
Carl Rachlin, Esq.
general counsel

ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Ralph Abernathy
James Baldwin
Roger N. Baldwin
Katrina M. Barnes
Algernon D. Black
James B. Carey
Allan Knight Chalmers
Grenville Clark
John Cogley
Earl B. Dickerson
Eugene E. Frazier
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Roland B. Gittelsohn
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George M. Houser
E. Stanley Jones
Bishop F. D. Jordan
Martin Luther King
Douglas Levin
David Livingston
Will Maslow
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Dorothy Norman
A. Philip Randolph
Ira DeA. Reid
Walter P. Reuther
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Lillian Smith
C. K. Steele
Gardner Taylor
Howard Thurman
Bishop W. J. Walls
Goodwin Watson
Joseph Willen
Jerry Wurf
Charles S. Zimmerman

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1st vice chairman
Henry Hodge
2nd vice chairman
Anna Holden
secretary
A. D. Moore
treasurer
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Oretha Castle
Daniel Garrison
Julius Hobson
Wester Sweet
regional representatives

DEPARTMENT
OF ORGANIZATION
James T. McCain
director
Fredricka Teer
assistant to the director

B. Elton Cox
David Dennis
Thomas Gaither
Mary Hamilton
Genevieve Hughes
Marvin Robinson
Frank Robinson
Jerome Smith
Henry Thomas
Eugene Tournour
Don Wendell
field secretaries

July 6, 1962

Mary Hamilton
% Mrs. Cathy White
620 Cleveland Avenue
Lebanon, Tenn.

Dear Mary;

Enclosed you will find copies of all the letters that have gone out to people in your area recently. I want to bring you up on a couple of recent events. Louisville is still having its problems. Lynn served her sentence consecutively and only spent nine days in jail. She did not serve out the time for her bond either as she stated she would. SCEF paid the fine. She's out and sent minutes in as usual. She is concerned about Paul Duffy, the white man that the press release that you should have gotten, was written about. Peggy Tucker says that the man is, or rather she feels that the man did not function adequately. The charges against him were dropped and he is now in a mental institution. Lynn seems to feel that this is not as it should be. In any case, it is hard to know from here. If there is an injustice, it certainly should not pass by unnoticed, but it is rather difficult to handle this kind of problem. We just don't know what to do about it here, and I'm sure they in Louisville are in a quandary about it too.

Additionally, Bishop Tucker was found brutally beaten and unconscious and no one knew what had happened to him for a couple of days. There seem to be two theories. One is that he wandered off, as he has been known to do, ended up in a very bad section of town and was beaten there, but managed to wander back home. The other theory is that he was beaten by the White Citizens Council and left to die and he managed to get back home. Nobody seems to know the real story, since he is unable to fully tell it. Frank Stanley Sr and his newspaper have not helped the situtation. They are inclined to think that he was an old man who wandered off and possibly attended a drunken brawl or something of that sort. And if I understand it, they publicly said this. Peggy asked us to urge the police to lodge an official investigation of the Bishop Tucker

CONGRESS OF RACIAL EQUALITY
CORE

to abolish racial discrimination by direct, nonviolent methods

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Jerome Smith
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field secretaries

incident to find out just what has happened. She feels that nothing has been done in that direction. — we received a telegram from Chief of Police Bena saying investigati of situation had b launced & to date there was nothing to substantiate racial connecti

The other letters I think are self-explanatory.

You should be hearing from a HUnter Morey before to very long. He is one of a group of ~~non~~-students working out of Jackson, Tennessee in an American Friends SERVice Committee project having to do with VOTER REgistration. It seems Morey is white and a Northern student. HE has a Negro roommate and this Negro has "admitted" that he is a Black Muslim. Morey is afraid that this roommate might subvert the group, or at least try to. He called long distance to New York, trying to get Bayard Rustin to come down to speak to the group about the Muslim movement and to give the group some amount of encouragement as to the importance of their project. He could not get Bayard, but of course, Bayard would have been unable to come down anyway. Bayard's office called here to see if we had anyone in the area who could talk to the group. THey are all college kids who want to do something in Voter Registration, and it is my feeling from this great distance (which is not too reliable) they are about to be split by completely unfounded suspicions. They have little direction and there seems to be no one around to give it to them. The fact that there are nine people in Jackson willing to work is good, and perhaps with some limited amount of help they can be gotten on the right track, or at least if there is someone to help them as a resource person, I can give them a direction. I WANTed to give ~~them~~ from the background in case they get in touch with you. Their address is Lane College, Jackson, TEnn. — I'm assuming this — Albert Porter

I think that about brings you up to date on what has been going on. Let me know how and what you are doing.

PS just received your reports.

Sincerely,

Fredricka

Fredricka

ft/mm
encs.

Sept. 17, 1962

Tenn

POSSIBLE CONTACTS IN KNOXVILLE, TENNESSEE

1. Mr. & Mrs. F. Woods Beckman
5908 Magazine Rd.
Knoxville 20, Tenn.

2. Mr. Harry A. Curtis
3730 Dellwood Dr.
Knoxville

3. Mr. James F. Davidson
2 Circle Hill Dr.
Knoxville 19

4. Mr. John C. Deupree
1105 Circle Park
Knoxville

5. Mr. Edward C. Harris
46 Ridgeway Road
Knoxville

6. Mr. Galen Martin
Knoxville Area Human Relations Council
Box 1011
Knoxville 1

7. Mr. Gerard M. Mertens
Knoxville College
Knoxville

8. Mr. Joseph D. Mitchell
Military Department
University of Tennessee
Knoxville, Tenn.

9. Mr. J. Earl Williams
3204 Mount Vernon Dr.
Knoxville 20, Tenn.

10. Mr. W.M. Regan, Jr.
1809 Rose Ave.
Knoxville, Tenn. 16

11. Mr. Joseph G. Sullivan, Jr.
1710 Yale Ave.
Knoxville 16, Tenn.

12. Rev. Robert West
Tennessee Valley Unitarian Church
3219 Kingston Pike
Knoxville, Tenn.

13. [illegible]

November 19, 1962

MEMO TO: Gordon Carey
FROM: Bob Gore
RE: Task Force

The following is a list of names with descriptions of each person. These are the people we contacted last spring during our peace walk:

Martin Spangler
601 Maryland Avenue
Bristol, Tennessee

Member of the Church of the Bretheren, Member of FOR, seemingly interested in race relations as well as peace.

Rev. M. H. Strickland
580 Southside Avenue
Bristol, Tennessee

Dynamic, young Negro minister. Has already successfully bucked City Hall on urban renewal problem. Seems to have high degree of social and political sophistication.

Mrs. Beulah Allen
204 Spring Street
Carthage, Tenn.

Sister Allen is the matriarch of the Negro community in this small town near Lebanon. Her late husband was minister of one of the local churches, of which she is now the minister. She would definitely be the person to contact if this city is on your list.

Mrs. Dona Rankins
112 Second Avenue
Carthage, Tenn.

This is the sister to Mr. Allen. She is probably second in command in the Negro community in Carthage.

Mr. Jonathan Evans
Volunteer Heights
Crossville, Tenn.

Evans is a Quaker (now Presbyterian), manager of Cumberland Clinic, a cooperative medical clinic in Cumberland County, Tennessee. Extremely stable, capable, and friend of FOR.

Dr. William Evans
Volunteer Heights
Crossville, Tenn.

Brother to Jonathan. MD with Cumberland Clinic. Same credentials as Jonathan.

Kingsport, Tenn.
Oscar R. Gill — Rev. & Mrs. M. S. Cox
229 Dunbar St. 921 Maple St.

Dr. James Metcalf
Cumberland Clinic
Crossville, Tenn.

Same credentials as Evans brothers.

Rev. C. J. Webb
St. Paul A.M.E. Zion Church
Milard at Welbourne
Johnson City, Tenn.

Middle-aged Negro minister who may or may not give limited support. The peace walk stayed in his church a few nights (not without a modicum of qualms on his part).

Mrs. Ralph Christian
211 Woodrow Avenue
Jonesboro, Tenn.

Member of the Church of the Bretheren, interested in problem of peace, and probably interested in race relations also. She put us up for two nights at the Church of the Bretheren in Jonesboro. Was very helpful during arrests in Johnson City.

Rev. J. A. Babington-Johnson
2542 Brooks Road, S. E.
Knoxville, Tennessee

A must for Knoxville. Originally from Sierra-Leone, West Africa, Oxford educated. A prominent leader in Knoxville community, highly respected by all facets of the community.

Mr. James H. Harper
2626 Wilson Avenue
Knoxville, Tenn.

Harper is a teacher in the public school system. An NAACP member, an almost sure bet for help for Task Force.

Mr. & Mrs. William Peterson
111 South Bertrand St.
Knoxville, Tenn.

Sure bets for assistance especially Mrs.

George E. Barrett
Stahlman Building
Nashville, Tenn.

Attorney who helped free of charge with our arrests in Nashville. I believe he was one of the attornies in the Highlander case.

Rev. John Culley
203 A Leake Avenue
Nashville, Tenn.

Culley is a young congregationalist minister, I believe gave us considerable help.

Dr. & Mrs. Nelson Fuson
911 18th Avenue North
Nashville, Tenn.

Dr. Fuson is a Quaker, FOR member, who teaches at Fiske. They were active with Nashville sit-ins, his wife being one of white observers during them.

Charles Galbreath
727 Summerly Drive
Nashville, Tenn.

One elective office as first public defender in Nashville County history. Also helped us with arrests in Nashville.

Rev. J. Metz
Rollins P. O. Box 1086
Nashville, Tenn.

You probably know Metz, he was active in Tallahassee sit-ins. Now working with Presbyterian Board of Social Concern in Nashville.

Axel Meyer
103 East Irving Lane
Oakridge, Tenn.

Meyer is, I believe, physiscist with A.E.C. Has attempted to start chapter of Sane in Oakridge. Is extremely aware of racial problems in Oakridge. As you may know, Oakridge has been called, "The most segregated city in the South." When government built the town back during early atomic days, going along with local customs, they built, separate but very unequal facilities there. Oakridge just might be a very good target for the Task Force.

Dec. 25, 1962

MEMO TO: Jon Scheffer & Winston Lockett
FROM: Mary Hamilton
RE: Contacts throughout Tenn.

Tenn

1..Bristol, Tenn

Martin Spangler
601 Maryland Ave. Peace walk contact from Bob Gore

Rev. M.H. Strickland
580 Southside Ave. " " "

2. Kingsport, Tenn.

Oscar R. Gill
228 Dunbar St.

Rev. & Mrs. M. S. Cox
921 Maple St. Both contacts acquired from Kay Jones

3. Carthage, Tenn.

Mrs. Beulah Allen
204 Spring St. Peace walk

Mrs. Dona Rankins
11s Second Ave. "

4. Crossville, Tenn.

Mr. Jonathan Evans
Volunteer Heights "

Dr. William Evans
Volunteer Heights "

Dr. James Metcalf
Cumberland Clinic

5. Johnson City, Tenn.

Rev. C.J. Webb
St. Paul A.M.E. Zion Church
Milard at Welbourne "

6. Jonesboro, Tenn.

Mrs. Ralph Christian
211 Woodrow Ave. "

7. Knoxville, Tenn.

Rev. J. A. Babington-Johnson
2542 Brooks Road, S. E.

Mr. James H. Harper
2626 Wilson Ave.

Knoxville, Tenn. cont.

Mr. James H. Harper — Peace walk contacts
2626 Wilson Ave.

Mr. & Mrs. William Peterson — "
111 South Bertrand St.

Nashville, Tenn.

See "Nashville Committee to Aid Lebanon"

Rev. John Culley
203 A Leake Ave.

Charles Galbreath
727 Summerly Drive

Chattanooga, Tenn.

Rev. Cordell H. Sloan
605 E. 5th St.

Oak Ridge, Tenn.

Axel Meyer
103 East Irving Land

THE FOLLOWING PAGES ARE THE BEST

AVAILABLE.

[illegible] West Tyrine Lane
Oak Ridge, Tennessee
July 24, 1964

Mr. Jim McCain
Department of Organization
CORE
#38 Park Row
New York, New York 10038

Dear Mr. McCain:

This is to advise you (I hope that I have the correct department) of the change of officers of our local CORE group several months ago at the time of our annual election. New chairman is Georgia Guinn, 133 Bethune Circle. I am vice- (or co-) chairman, Marion Rossel, 120 Virginia Road, is Recording Secretary; Charlestine Thrift, Corresponding Secretary; and Willie Buchner, Treasurer.

Since I was already public relations chairman from the previous year, I do receive CORE news releases plus reports of national meetings. However, the special communications to our chapter are still going to our former Chairman, Mrs. Nelson Stephens--which naturally causes some delay in our response. We would greatly appreciate your sending these either to Miss Guinn or myself. (I suppose it should go to her, as she is Chairman, but since she works during the day, I'd suggest a copy to me if you need any rapid response.)

I understand that the previous Steering Committee has not yet turned the books over to the current Treasurer, since they are some $10 short of the amount owed to national from our fundraising efforts during the year--this was mostly contributions from local members to pay the legal expenses of our local court case.

As you may have gathered from the above, ours is not a terribly well-organized group. We formed rather spontaneously from the nucleus of previous local action groups last year when CORE organizer (field worker) Winston Lockett was in town. Our Negro community is a tiny fraction (less than 5%) of the town's population of about 30,000. Very few college-trained people are included in the Negro population--teachers at the elementary school in the Negro residential area and a few technical people at local government-supported plants. It was extremely difficult to persuade any Negro to take the chairmanship of the CORE group for this year, when Mrs. Stephens (who is a real leader in the Negro community but has 6 young children and numerous other church and civic responsibilities) declined to accept it for another year. Being white myself, I accepted co-chairmanship only on the basis that a member of the Negro community accept chairmanship--which finally Miss Guinn accepted.

We would welcome any assistance or direction available from National in organizing our local efforts. I have recently gotten the new Steering Committee to institute a plan of meeting only bi-monthly instead of weekly as before, with announced planned agendas for each meeting, Steering Committee Meetings in advance, newspaper publicity as well as posters up in the neighborhood, etc. This has upped the attendance at last two meetings from about 10 to which it had dwindled to over 40. We have also sought and gained active participation at meetings of 2 white ministers--the Negro community is essentially without a resident, able-bodied minister at this point. Our public demonstrations at a local laundromat were never resumed following President Kennedy's death and the Court of Appeal threw out our attempt to get that case into Federal Court in the Spring--but following passage of the Civil Rights Bill the owner recently shocked everybody by agreeing to open (apparently realizing that we could now successfully appeal to Federal Court).

We have had several fairly active committees. I personally have succeeded in contacting the out-of-state owner of our only remaining segregated recreational facility, Myers Bros. Skating Rink and he has promised to give us an answer within a couple of weeks after checking with his other partners. Local managers state their readiness to integrate as he gives the word. Our Education Committee has been in contact with Superintendent of schools, seeking integration of faculty, especially at junior high school where Negro and white students come together for first time. Our housing committee, which has long pressured the Federal government (AEC, HHFA, President, President's Committee on Housing, etc.) to take action with regard to the local major local rental agent, James Moore and Co., is attempting to negotiate with Moore and Monday. Plans are for a direct action campaign beginning with a prayer vigil the following Saturday if Moore still refuses to drop all racial barriers in his vast local holdings. Since major financial interest in this company is held by a Mr. Galbraith of Columbus, Ohio, who is also part-owner of Pittsburgh Pirates, we have written the CORE Chairman in Columbus exploring possibilities of joint CORE action regarding Galbraith. Our efforts with the government, which brought 5 officials to Oak Ridge this spring from Washington, finally resulted in AEC issuing a directive we had long requested--namely, that in the future only housing without any racial barriers would be listed with incoming employees to its programs or that of any of its subcontractors. Moore supposedly agreed at that time to operate without barriers. However, we have secured recent complaints to verify our contention that he still discriminates. Head of the localAEC, Sam Saparie was interviewed by our local housing committee several weeks ago and as far as we know has not taken the requested action of removing Moore's name from AEC's list of accepted landlords.

Our Employment Committee has practically dissolved at this point, although in the past year we have interviewed managers of all major local supermarkets and a number of major downtown retail stores--none

o:

of whom admit discriminating, but there are no Negro salesclerks or other white collar workers in local establishments. We keep hearing of "lack of qualified applicants" and were told applicants we encouraged to apply had scored for the most part miserably on the various tests given for employment. We therefore obtained a battery of samply Civil Service tests and some attempt was made to acquaint interested Negroes with their types of questions, etc. However, interest in this was so minimal that the white scientist who had enthusiastically taken on this project gave up in despair.

Another local group, the Community Relations Council, has been working for months with our barbers, none of whom will serve Negroes. Since their efforts have seemed essentially ineffectual, I plan to propose that we use the barber shops for our planned test case in federal courts as to whether any business in this Federally-developed town may discriminate among customers on the basis of race. Our Knoxville lawyer feels this would be a good test. Only other segregated public accommodations at this point are the skating rink and all but two or three beauty parlors. (The latter issued a somewhat ambiguous statement to the press many months ago indicating more might be open, but our plans to have this tested withou by Negro women met with failure despite two workshop sessions--we couldn't get anyone to test.)

Well, there you have a report on Oak Ridge CORE. If this should have gone instead to Marvin Rich, please pass it along to him. One item I omitted of recent activities was a successful rally we sponsored across the street from a Ku Klux Klan organizational meeting here a couple of months ago--our group was joined for the first time by 3 white ministers (including the director of Oak Ridge Institute of Nuclear Studies--Dr. William Pollard), 2 City Councilman, the leader of the Jewish Congregation, a former mayor of Town Council, and a number of distinguished local scientists --in addition to our usual CORE participants. As far as we can tell, the Klan's attempt to organize here was a fizzle. Many of the people who attended their meeting were hostile to their aims and went only out of curiosity.

We have also been active in seeking, through local news releases and wires to Washington officials, to support the move for ample Federal protection for students, staff workers and residents of Mississippi.

Several have expressed a wish for Winston to return this summer. Is there any chance a CORE worker could come here even briefly before the summer is over to aid in our efforts? We are a pretty middleaged group, having lost during the year (to college, etc.) most of the young people Winston attracted during his stay here last year.

I apologize for the length of this.

Sincerely,

Cecile (Mrs. Axel) Meyer, Co-Chairman
Oak Ridge CORE

Reprints
Texas, Dallas Chapter

1904, Jan -
1905, May

Isaac
Haley

CORE SOUTHERN OFFICE
2209 DRYADES ST.
NEW ORLEANS, LA. 70113

January 3, 1964

MEMORANDUM

TO: Southeastern CORE CHApters

Re: Workshop and Reporting

From: Isaac Reynolds

Enclosed is the text of the workshop held in Dallas last month. We hop that you will find it informative and are able to use many of the ideas in it.

During the next month or two we may find it rather difficult to visit most of the chapters in the region. Unless we receive a special request from some chapters or chapter most of you should not expect a visit until sometime in March.

Each chapter can aid us and the Southern Office in our schedule making by (1) informing Richard Haley, the Southern Regional Director, as soon as possible what the chapter is doing (send me a copy), (2) requesting help for a program when you need help far enought in advance so as to enable us to meet your needs, and (3) informing us of any chapter problem where our held maybe needed or required befor the problems becomes acute.

Richard Haley will know where we are at all times and all request for material and held should be send to him at the southern office. In the meantime we are trying to arrange for Tom Valtine, a field worker, who works with us to vist as many as the chapters as possible befor March.

Isaac Reynolds
Field Secretary

Haley

Report for March 1964

The first week in March was spent trying to establish new contacts in Texas. I went to Midland but was unable to contact the person name i had been given. Twenty-five or more letters have beeen written to people a-cross Texas covering about 15 different cities. I also been in contact with people in Oklahoma around the area covering Admore and hope to vist their when I am in Oklahoma City. I represented CORE at the funeral services of our falling commrade Ann Brewster in Shreveport and strength relations with other people in Shreveport who will have to take Ann's place. There is a large student group that could be effect if given some direction. They along such people as Atty. Stone feel that some ~~xirxxti~~ direct action is need in Shreveport in the downtown area. If Shreveport should be consider for some type of action this summer, I've promises of housing for app. twenty girls and feel certain that housing could be found for twenty-five or thirty additional people. We have plans of the downtown area and the stores in the area. The local NAACP is renting a building for thirty dollars a month that would be willing to share with us however I don't belive they will be able to keep the building until the summer but I am sure we could rent it from the same man at the same price. If the building is not available, a minster has promise the use of the third ~~xxi~~ floor of his church. Shreveport serves as the state captiol in northern Louisiana ~~xxrxx~~ and if anything can be open their it will certainly make it easier in the other parts of northern Louisiana. San Antonio CORE has been successful in opening another resturant and have started a clothing and food drive for Mississippi. We gotten a union to agree to haul the collected items to Mississippi free and a church is given the group the fourth Sunday in April to raise funds. They have also opened a office and given us space in it at no charge. Bruce and I also visted Dallas. We made contact at Souther Methodist and Bishop college. I spoke at Southern Methodist where app 35-40 people from each in college were in

Haley

Report for March 1964

The first week in March was spent trying to establish new contacts in Texas. I went to Midland but was unable to contact the person name i had been given. Twenty-five or more letters have beeen written to people across Texas covering about 15 different cities. I also been in contact with people in Oklahoma around the area covering Admore and hope to vist their when I am in Oklahoma City. I represented CORE at the funeral services of our falling commrade Ann Brewster in Shreveport and strength relations with other people in Shreveport who will have to take Ann's place. There is a large student group that could be effect if given some direction. They along such people as Atty. Stone feel that some ~~xirxxti~~ direct action is need in Shreveport in the downtown area. If Shreveport should be consider for some type of action this summer, I've promises of housing for app. twenty girls and feel certain that housing could be found for twenty-five or thirty additional people. We have plans of the downtown area and the stores in the area. The local NAACP is renting a building for thirty dollers a month that would be willing to share with us however I don't belive they will be able to keep the building until the summer but I am sure we could rent it from the same man at the same price. If the building is not available, a minster has promise the use of the third ~~xxi~~ floor of his church. Shreveport serves as the state capitol in northern Louisiana ~~xxrxx~~ and if anything can be open their it will certainly make it easier in the other parts of northern Louisiana. San Antonio CORE has been successful in opening another resturant and have started a clothing and food drive for Mississippi. We gotten a union to agree to haul the collected items to Mississippi free and a church is given the group the fourth Sunday in April to raise funds. They have also opened a office and given us spase in it at no charge. Bruce and I also visted Dallas. We made contact at Souther Methodist and Bishop college. I spoke at Southern Methodist where app 35-40 people from each in college were in attendance. If a group is formed in Dallas they will have a very hard struggle because of the established power structure in the Negro community. I am not sure of Richard Koogle reasons for wanting CORE. I suspect that they are politcally (dem) however their does appear to be some people with sincere reasons for wanting CORE in Dalles. Next stop Tulsa, Oklahoma

Isaac Reynolds

Isaac Reynolds

Summary Report

April 23, 1964

On about April 13 this office received a telephone call from Richard Kugel, who identified himself as a member of Dallas, Texas CORE. He discribed briefly the present civil rights activities in Dallas.

At this time there is a group known as the Coordinating Committee on Civil Rights in Dallas. It is composed of representives from CORE and several other organizations. The committee recently sent a letter to the school board in Dallas, indicating a desire to open discussions with the board on full school integration in that city. The committee set a two week deadline for an affirmative position on this matter by the school board. This failing, they would be prepared to begin demonstrations for school integration.

The chairman of Dallas CORE is Reveren Earl Allen, Highland High Presbyterian Church, telephone FR. 6-3303. The address of Dallas CORE is Box 3106 Dallas 21, Texas.

R. Haley

~~Program~~ Cy.

Ark

9643 Broken Bow
Dallas 38, Texas
May 4, 1964

Dear Sirs,

I am a high school student (at Lake Highlands High School) and how been greately impressed by the C.O.R.E., and feel that it is our responcibility here in Dallas, and Texas to follow in the progressive actions of other cities and states.

Despite the boasts of Dallas civic leaders and businessmen, this city is quite backward in its progess toward desired goals of equality. Dallas, as most of Texas, has been virtually untouched by the civil rights movement. Thus many people have developed a self-righteousness, of a kind, which deters a realistic attitude. Texans point proudly to the skyscrapers and booming industrial and commercial cities of the state. However little regard is given to the fact that the education level of this states minorities is among the lowest in the nation. Negro high school students (in Dallas) attend buildings which were delapidated when the last white students left, years ago. In the Richardson school system ~~district~~ I know of a negro family with several school age children which live well within the area of the white elementary school and the Lake Highlands

refer to Sipuel case
Send to Atty Gen
Send copy to Sipuel Atty, etc.

High school district, however none of these schools are integrated. There are countless other situations in this city, some of less, many of greater significance. and they all deserve attention. Myself, fellow students, and many Dallas citizens would be willing to do what is needed if provided an organized voice.

Confronted with a stern statement calling for action toward necessary changes, the city fathers which have done so much concerning other civic matters in the past; will hopefully add to the national progress of the civil rights movement. The practical public of Dallas is a responsible citizenery. Any violence occuring, took would be solely the work of those few extremists for whom Dallas is unfortunately notorious. However I do believe this city to be above violence now, after the tragic realization to which we were brought in November, 1963.

I request your advice and information as to how students may be able to aid in achievement of local progress as well as matters such as the passage of the national civil rights bill.

Expliet -

David Laurence Hobbs

June 18, 1964

David Laurence Hobbs
9643 Broken Bow
Dallas 38, Texas

Dear Mr. Hobbs:

Thank you for your letter of May 4th. It is indeed good to know that there are students in Texas interested in helping the cause of Human Rights.

I have referred your letter to our Southern Regional Office in New Orleans and I am sure they will be intou ou. I have enclosed some l. hich I'm sure will interest you.

Again t. u for your interest.

Sincerely yours,

Maxine Skurka
Department of Organization

cc: R. Haley

June 13, 1964

Mr. Isaac Reynolds
1003 N. Colorado
Midland, Texas

Dear Ike,

Please arrange your schedule so you can spend a few days in Dallas before convention time. They seem to be ready for affiliation, but likely need another visit in order for you to make an up-to-the-minute recommendation.

Sincerely,

Richard Haley

RH/ds
Enclosures

June 12, 1964

Mr. Ted Armstrong
Box 3106
Dallas 21, Texas

Dear Ted,

Attorney Robert Collins of New Orleans gave me a detailed report of the recent activities of Dallas CORE. The group is to be congratulated for its fine example of persistent non-violent direct action. I hope you are sending reports and photos of your work to the CORE-lator. If not, please try to arrange to do so as soon as you can.

In order for a chapter to be affiliated it must fulfill the following requirements:

1. Have been in existence over 30 days.
2. Have a minium membership of ten people.
3. Have submitted a written application on the CORE form drawn up for that purpose.
4. Send in a $10 application fee, with the application, to the national office.
5. Submit a written constitution which does not conflict with CORE Rules for Action or the National Constitution.
6. Have been visited by a CORE Field Secretary.

I usually suggest to groups that their application will be better received if also accompanied by an outline of present and future program.

On completion of the conditions the application would then be submitted to (in your case) the National Convention.

I will instruct Isaac Reynolds to visit Dallas CORE before the time of the convention. You will hear from him shortly.

Sincerely,

Richard Haley

RH/ds
Enclosures

a national organization with affiliated local groups working

CONGRESS OF RACIAL EQUALITY

CORE

to abolish racial discrimination by direct, nonviolent methods

38 PARK ROW
NEW YORK 38, NEW YORK
COrtlandt 7-6270

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national director
Richard Haley
assistant to the director
Carl Rachlin, Esq.
general counsel

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June 6, 1964

Dear Richard:

Enclosed is the address that I can reached at in Midland, Texas:
1003 c/o William H Baird - MU23625
Al. Colorado or MU44585

Because of conditions here here, I don't know long I'll be here (if 104° Sunday or it was Today, we won't be here long) or if I'll be going to El Paso, Dallas, Fort Worth or San Antonio when I leave here Monday I hope to spend the day in El Paso and return to ~~Dallas~~ Midland Tuesday. Depending on ~~what~~ the results of the meeting Tuesday, we'll make our decision as to who will leave Midland or if both of us will have to stay or ~~but~~ will be able to leave. At such time we will inform the Box of our address.

the

Isaac Reynolds

Southwestern Region Field Report

June 1964

Bruce arrived in Midland, Texas app. one week befor me. I arrived in Midland the first week of June. We immediately began to discuss CORE with Calvin Lee, our contact in Midland, who has proven tobe a bad contact. However, we were able to meet Betty Purrcell and other interested people. We found that it was more people in the white community interested in CORE than there was in the Negro community. It was a simple matter to establish contact with the white community however, we had to vist places that Negro studentsfrequent befor we were able to find the number of Negroes that we felt was enough to form a well balance group. No minster with the exception of one offered any help nor do we feel that any help can be expected from any of them.

We had a meeting for the purpose of informing interested people of CORE's history, philosophy and organizantional structure. A second meetin was scheduled to discuss forming a CORE chapter in Midland and to schedule non-violent workshops. We took our own survey of Midland and concluded the most pressing problems are housing, employment, education and recreation. Through a meeting at the Unitarian Church, we were able to increase our contact with the white community and farther our efforts in bringing the two community together.

I left Bruce in Midland and went to SanAntonio to help the group in their food and clothing drive for Mississippi. While in San Antonio I talk with Albert Penna, an officer in PACO about the migrant labor problem in Texas. Because of his heavy schedule, we agree to meet again after the election in November and when ever he has time between now and the election to discuss a solution to the migrant problem.

Leaving San Antonio, I went into the Ft. Worth-Dallas area. In Ft. Worth, our contact turn out tobe a hatchman for the govenor and had hope to use CORE to that or those ends that would help the govenor in the election. All contact with him stop at once and new contact established with Rev. Hodges and others who are loosley associate with SCLC. ~~Hoover~~ Hawrah no one from SCLC has been in Ft. Worth to help them in any way. I found that they knew nothing about demonstrating or anything else concerning

civil rights. I help them for several days with the idea such contact could be useful in the future. In Dallas I confered with Atty. John Wilson about continuing demonstrations and legal movements. That night we meet with the group and we had workshops for the new members. While in DAllas, I attend several hearning and picket with the group and met with people that may be able to help in other programs that Dallas CORE is thingkin a - bout. The resturanj picaddarly has desegregat in all major cities of Texas and we will be checking the smaller ones about their policy.

The chapter in Tulsa seem to have two problems. One is they are fighting with their own lawyers and two that they are fighting with the people in Oklahoma City. The following is my findings and orders to both groups.

The problem between Tulsa CORE and the people in Oklahoma City is a result of Tulsa CORE co operating with the Oklahoma NAACP in a demonstration at the state captial in Oklahoma City. Their state goal was to have the state legislature pass a state law banning segregation. Tulsa CORE had good intentions I am sure but the legislature had gone home for the summer and the election itself was being challenge in court and no one knew who was a legislater or who would be in the legislature, therefore I must agree with the people in Oklahoma City. Another point is that the NACCP is fighting for its very life in Oklahoma and especially in Oklahoma City where they are willing to use cheap news stories to keep up with the activites of CORE.

I informed Tulsa CORE that as long as we had a group in Oklahoma City using the name of CORE and they were active even through they were not an official CORE group at that time they (Tulsa CORE) could not go to Oklahoma City and use the name of CORE in a demonstration that the local group had good reasons for being against.

I will return to Tulsa after the convention to settle the problem they are having with their lawyers. Oklahoma City became an official group at the convention.

Isaac Reynolds
Field Secretary

Dallas Chapter
CONGRESS OF RACIAL EQUALITY
(CORE)

TED ARMSTRONG
Chairman

2525 FOREST AVE.
HA 8-2312

REV. EARL E. ALLEN
Regional Representative

August 22, 1964

Mr. Richard Haley
Southern Regional Office
2211 Dryades Street
New Orleans, Louisiana

Dear Mr. Haley:

This letter is in response to your questions about our project against the School Board of Dallas. First of all, our complaints are as follows:

1. The dictatorship tactics of School Superintendent "Dr." Warren Travis White.

2. We protest the present stair-step plan for desegregation. ("Dr." White has closed three previously desegregated schools and redesignated them as all-Negro. When the 1963 school year began, there were 182 Negroes enrolled in desegregated classes. At the end of the school year, there were only 72 Negroes in these classes. If that is not "resegregation", I don't know what is!)

3. The School Board continues to build "Negro" schools.

4. No desegregation in vocational training schools except at night.

5. No driver education courses available to Negroes.

6. No Negroes on School Board.

7. "Dr." White challenges the maturity of the citizenry of Dallas to tolerate, if not to accept, total desegregation on the basis of a poll taken four or five years ago. In the poll, total desegregation was voted down. However, we feel that Dallas is ready for total desegregation. A new suit has been filed by the N.A.A.C.P. to open all grades. However, let me remind you that the last suit to get this stair-step plan took five and one-half years to settle.

Dallas C.O.R.E. contends that the community cannot wait another five or six years for this problem to beresolved. We want total desegregation NOW!

The way the city and the school board are planning now, if we wait that long, we will have the same acute disease that the northern cities are having, "De Facto Segregation".

Our demands are as follows:

1. Abolish the stair-step plan in favor of TOTAL DESEGREGATION.

2. Stop building "Negro Schools" in order to preserve segregation.

3. Open Vocational schools, both day and night.

4. Driver education courses in all schools.

Because of the competition that the local N.A.A.C.P has created between us, we do not have the total community support, but we do have the majority. This is mainly because of their decision not to participate in action projects until after the November elections.

We anticipate compliance with all of our demands.

On the Slum Problem, we have been taking surveys and talking to the tennants individually about their problems. We are planning Mass Meetings to collectively discuss the problems. These meetings will be our guide to determining whether or not a rentstrike will be totally effective. We are hoping, however, that negociations cancel out our plans.

The school boycott will have to depend on the total co-operation of the total community,specifically the N.A.A.C.P.

It would greatly be to our advantage if the Regional or National Office could send some professional advisors or planners to help us in these ventures. We would appreciate any physical assistance as soon as possible. Let me know if it is possible to receive such assistance.

Rev. Allen, South Central Representative, will send you data on the Wichita Falls situation as soon as it is compiled.

Yours truly,

Ted Armstrong

Ted Armstrong
Chairman

TA/si

19 August 1964

Mr. Ted Armstrong, Chairman
Dallas Chapter of CORE
2525 Forest Avenue
Dallas, Texas

Dear Mr. Armstrong:

Let me thank you for your kind and urgent request to speak in Dallas later this month or early in September. Unfortunately it will not be possible for me to appear at that time. I would welcome the opportunity to visit your chapter sometime in October or November and trust that we may be able to work out some arrangements along that line.

I suggest that you contact Richard Haley, CORE Associate Director, at 221 Dryades Street in New Orleans, Louisiana. Mr. Haley is in charge of our work in the South and my be able to join you on the 6th of September. I am sending a copy of this letter to him.

Let me congratulate you on the program for school integration that you have been working on so well. I sincerely wish that I could assist you at this time, but my schedule will simply not permit it.

Sincerely yours,

James Farmer
National Director

JF:LP

cc: Mr. Richard Haley

Dallas Chapter
CONGRESS OF RACIAL EQUALITY
(CORE)

TED ARMSTRONG
Chairman

2525 FOREST AVE.
HA 8-2312

REV. EARL E. ALLEN
Regional Representative

August 15, 1964

Mr. Richard Haley
CORE Southern Regional Office
2211 Dryades Street
New Orleans, Louisiana

Dear Mr. Haley,

1 This letter is to inform you that the Dallas Chapter of CORE has opened a local headquarters at2525 Forest Avenue here in Dallas. It is also to bring you up to date on Dallas CORE projects.

I sincerely regret the delay in informing you concerning the formal opening of our office, but we have been so busy setting up the office and working on COREprojects that we decided to keep the old mailing address for a while. We are set up in an office building with two more offices. We have fairly large working space. We have just about all we need except a filing cabinet. That will be installed soon. 2 We need more CORE material, T-shirts, Membership cards,and pins. Please send us these items as soon as possible. Especially the cards and T-shirts.

3 Dallas CORE recently completed its canned good drive to send food to Mississippi. We collected almost three thousand pounds of goods. We also collected books and clothing. The food was accompanied to Mississippi by the Rev. Earl E. Allen, Steve Washington, Bruce Baines, and myself. We did not encounter any trouble on the way. We arrived in Jackson on the same day the bodies of Goodman, Chaney and Schwerner were brought there. The afternoon of the same day, we took the food to Canton. Shortly after, we came back to Dallas. The responce of the people was marvelous.

4 We are currently on a direct action campaign against the school board here. Right now the nature of the action is sing-ins, speak-ins and pickets. We are also working on the slum problem, planned school boycotts, and voter registration.

5 Mr. Haley, Rev. Allen and myself have received letters daily from Wichita Falls, Texas, urgently asking for our help with their problems in schools, housing, employment, public accommodations and recreation. A great number of people there want to affiliate themselves with our chapter, but we feel that, if the problems are as bad as they say there, they need a local chapter of their own. We would like very much for this to happen.

Rev. Allen, myself and maybe Bruce Baines are going over there to take personal inventory of the situation next week. We shall report our findings. Let us hear from you soon.

Yours truly,

Ted Armstrong

P.S. The Dallas Chapter is growing fast, so please send the above requested articles soon. Also Bruce Baines has been doing a very commendable job while here in Dallas. He is a very hard worker, and an asset to CORE.

Southern Regional Office
2211 Dryades Street
New Orleans, Louisiana
523-7204

August 19, 1964

Mr. Ted Armstrong, Chairman
Dallas CORE
2525 Forest Avenue
Dallas, Texas

Dear Ted,

This is the opportunity a double-barreled congratulation. First for the opening of the CORE headquaters and second for the fine success of your can good drive. Dallas CORE has made a strong beginning.

The Southern Office is just enlarging its operation to include a large stock of such CORE materials as you mentioned. As we do not have them in stock presently, I have forwarded your request to national office. Next time you have such a need we should have them available.

Your campaign against the school board sounds good. However, I would like to know more about it. What are your complaints? What are your demands? How much community support are you getting? What results do you anticipate? I would also like to know something of the nature of your work on the slum problem and the school boycott.

I am very glad you are taking an interest in Wichita Falls. I will speak to Isaac Reynolds and Bruce Baines about this, and try very hard to have one of them follow up your contacts. Please send the result of your findings together with a list of names, addresses and phone numbers of key contact people in Wichita Falls.

Sincerely,

Richard Haley

RH/ds

C O R E SOUTHERN REGIONAL OFFICE
2211 Dryades Street
New Orleans, Louisiana 70113
523-7204

September 7, 1964

Mr. Ted Armstrong, Chairman
Dallas CORE
2525 Forest Avenue
Dallas, Texas

Dear Ted,

Thank you for your informative letter on the activities of Dallas CORE. Your program of demands certainly seems a reasonable one, and I would expect a chapter with the militant history of Dallas CORE to pretty nearly achieve just what you are asking for.

The problem of competition with the NAACP is an old one with CORE, as you well know. I would strongly counsel that Dallas CORE make every effort to maintain a non-violent, conciliatory attitude toward the local NAACP. I realize this may seem more easily said than done. Perhaps the Youth Council will provide a way through which CORE and NAACP can co-operate; if not this, at least let us exist in an atmosphere of mutual toleration and non-interference.

The National Office does not have, readily at hand, special professional advisors to consult with local groups on specific problems such as housing. However, the visiting field secretary has a general knowledge of basic operation involved in all of the more familiar CORE programs. Where particular questions arise, he will be able to secure the necessary information through contact with this office or the National Office. In his absence the chapter can do that itself.

Sometime ago I sent each southern chapter a questionnaire concerning desegregation in employment and public accommodation in your city. It would help very much if you would fill out and return this questionnaire.

CORE is proud of the militant and eff ective manner in which Dallas CORE has conducted its program during the past year. Please accept my congratulations in behalf of this office and the rest of national CORE. In that regard it would be very good for Dallas CORE to send

a newsletter outlining its recent work, to this office. I would be glad to distribute this letter to the rest of the CORE chapters.

Sincerely,

Richard Haley

RH/ds

C O R E SOUTHERN REGIONAL OFFICE

2211 Dryades Street

New Orleans, Louisiana 70113

523-7204

October 28, 1964

Thomas Valentine
2525 Forest Avenue
Dallas, Texas

Dear Tom,

I must apology for being so late with this communication. Between you and Bruce I've been able to keep pretty well up-to-date on the activities of Dallas CORE. I have one complaint, as indicated by the return of your expense reports.

Following are some tips, that, I believe, will pull us up on the expense report procedure. First of all, when you include lodging in your week expenses, deduct five dollars from the total. Remember, CORE pays yourlodging after the first five dollars of expense to you. Next, do not include anything you have received--loans, donations, advances, or any other receipts, as expense. The $20 you received from Bruce for example, is not an expense. Next, make sure that the firgures on thereport agree with the figures on your receipts (take a look at your Oct. 17 report under lodging). Finally remember that what we are primarily concerned with is reimbursable expenses. In the lower left hand corner I would want to know how much expense money you have received, not how much subsistence. Subtract what you have spent that may be reimburse from what you have received in expense advance. This leaves your balance--even if it is a minus balance--for that week. It is on the basis of this figure that further funds are advanced to you. Please recheck these reports and send them back to me as soon as possible.

Both Bruce and Isaac have told me that you are doing a very satisfactory job. I am very happy about this. Kindly accept the commendation of this office for your good record.

Sincerely,

Richard Haley

RH/ds

Dallas Chapter
CONGRESS OF RACIAL EQUALITY
(CORE)

TED ARMSTRONG
Chairman

2525 FOREST AVE.
HA 8-2312

REV. EARL E. ALLEN
Regional Representative

October 15, 1964

Southern Regional Office of CORE
2211 Dryades
New Orleans, Louisiana

Attention: Doty

Dear Doty:

Could you do me a favor? Last week (around October 5, 6. or 7), I sent a field report in for Bruce Baines to Richard Haley. However, Richard went to New York and now, Jim McCain wants a copy of that field report. Unfortunately, we were running out of paper at the time the report was written and copy wasn't made.

Could you find that field report of Bruce Baines for the period of time from September 21 to October 8, 1964 and send a copy to Mr. McCain in New York. Since Bruce is traveling in Texas and Arkansas presently, he is hard to reach and therefore, we cannot pin him down and get the info from him.

I appreciate your help very much,

Yours in freedom,

Thomas Valentine

Tom Valentine
Task Force Worker

TV/si

2525 Forest Avenue
Dallas, Texas
September 25, 1964

Mr. Richard Haley
2211 Dryades
New Orleans, Louisiana

Dear Richard:

This is just to let you know that the trial for demonstrating against the Dallas School Board by five CORE members, was held on September 22, 1964. Since the trial could not be settled that day, it was postponed until next Tuesday, September 29th at 3:00 p.m.

We will send the details of the results of this case next week. Our attorney, Mr. John Wilson is doing a great job as usual.

Yours for freedom,

Thomas Valentine

Thomas Valentine

TV/si

c.c. Mr. Ike Reynolds
917 N. Tonti
New Orleans, Louisiana

1 Read & file Baines

COPY

2525 Forest Avenue
Dallas, Texas
September 17, 1964

Mr. Jim McCain
38 Park Row
New York 38, New York

Re: Field Report from August 29, 1964 through September 10, 1964

Dear Jim:

Since leaving DeRidder, Louisiana, I attended a staff meeting that was held in Jackson, Mississippi. It was, in my opinion, avery good meeting.

On September 2, 1964, I arrived in Dallas, Texas. At the present time, the Dallas Chapter of C.O.R.E. is carrying on demonstrations against the School Board and are very much concerned about the housing problem.

On September 4, 1964, I went to Wichita Falls, Texas, to see about establishing a C.O.R.E. chapter there. At the present time, it is in the beginning stages.

On September 6, 1964, I returned to Dallas and I planned to go to San Antonio and from there to Midland, Texas.

On September 9th, at 7:45 a.m., the local chapter of C.O.R.E. picketed the W.W. Bushman School because of a segregated dual system. Three-fourths of that area are Negroes and only 20 elementary children attend this school, which is local in an inter-racial neighborhood. Later that afternoon, 4 local members and myself were arrested for disturbing the peace. Our trial is set for the 22nd of this month.

I will be working out of Dallas in case you want to contact me.

Yours for freedom,

Bruce Baines

Bruce Baines
Field Secretary

BB/si

c.c. Richard Haley

COPY

2525 Forest Avenue
Dallas, Texas
September 17, 1964

Mr. Jim McCain
38 Park Row
New York 38, New York

Re: Tom Valentine, Task Force Worker &
Bruce Baines, Field Secretary

Dear Jim:

On Tuesday, September 15, 1964, we had a meeting with the City Council of DeRidder, Louisana, whereby, we gained working relationship with them and obtained commitments for the organization for help in voter registration drives and other civic drives as well. They seemed very happy to see us down there and expressed sentiments to the effect that we should have more meetings like this, maybe once a month. We do not intend to set up a bi-racial organization in the community.

The following day, we had a meeting with the Police Jury. This was in connection with the removal of signs in the Parish Court House. The Parish Court House comes under the Police Jury because they are the governing body of the Parish. They told us different and referred us to another agency. The agencies were the Sheriff and the District Attorney of the Parish, where by, the District Attorney informed the Police Jury that due to the Civil Rights Bill, the signs had to be removed.

Field Report on voter registration will follow.

Yours for freedom,

Tom Valentine

Tom Valentine
Task Force Worker

TVs

Dallas Chapter
CONGRESS OF RACIAL EQUALITY
(CORE)

TED ARMSTRONG
Chairman

2525 FOREST AVE.
HA 8-2312

REV. EARL E. ALLEN
Regional Representative

October 8, 1964

Mr. Richard Haley
2211 Dryades
New Orleans, Louisiana

Re: Field Report from September 17th to October 8, 1964

Dear Richard:

I have been spending most of my time in Dallas because of the lack of expense money and because of my trial that is pending in Dallas.

On Wednesday, September 23rd, I went to San Antonio and visited the CORE chapter there. They are in the process of picketing the Southern Governors Conference which will be held on the 11th and 12th of October in San Antonio. They will also hold elections within the next week and I will inform you of the new officers. Also on the 23rd of September, the Dallas chapter of CORE picketed Senator Goldwater at Market Hall and it turned out to be a very heated situation. However, there were no serious incidents.

On Tuesday, September 29th, four members of Dallas CORE were found guilty of disturbing the peace and were fined $50.00 each but the case is now up for appeal to the next highest court. I re

I received a letter from Jim McCain asking me to check further into arequest from Rev. Russell Jack Ballard in Wichita Falls, who is interested in forming a CORE chapter in that city. At the present time, I haven't been able to reach Rev. Ballard.

I am planning to return to San Antonio for the Southern Governors Conference and to Midland, Texas.and from there I am planning to meet Ike in Oklahoma. These are my plans for the present time

At the present time, I have no recommendation as far as Freedom Schools and Community Centers. in Texas.

Yours for freedom,

Bruce Baines

Bruce Baines

BB/si

Ans. (address of San Ant. CORE)

Dallas Chapter
CONGRESS OF RACIAL EQUALITY
(CORE)

TED ARMSTRONG
Chairman

2525 FOREST AVE.
HA 8-2312

REV. EARL E. ALLEN
Regional Representative

October 19, 1964

Mr. Richard Haley
2211 Dryades
New Orleans, Louisiana

Re: Field Report from Octob r 10th
to October 17th 1964

Dear Richard:

On October 10th, the local C. O.R.E. chapter of San Antonio, Tex. picket the Southern Governors as they arrived at the air port. they picket about thirty mintes, than left to picket the Hotel where the Governors were staying.

On October 12th the local C. O.R.E. chapter picket a German Peruvian,Mexican Restauant where a party was held for the Governors. During the picking there were about Four Hundred Persons watching. There was one police dog and a patty wagon bough to the secene, but no arrest was made.

Ike and I, stayed in Antonio for the rest of the week, and worked with the local C.O.R.E. chapter. We will leave Sat. going to Ft. Smith Ark.. From there we will go to Hugo Oklahoma. We'er also working on a state wide program for this aera, and will present to you copies of this program as soon as possible.

In this letter you will find clippings from the paper about the demonstrations in San Antonio, Texas.

Yours For Freedom

Bruce Baines

Bruce Baines

BB/if

C O R E SOUTHERN REGIONAL OFFICE
2211 Dryades Street
New Orleans, Louisiana 70113
523-7204

October 19, 1964

Mr. Thomas Valentine
2525 Forest Avenue
Dallas, Texas

Dear Tom,

We hope we have sent the various items requested by you or Bruce recently. From this point please send your expense reports to this office, from which they will be forwarded to New York. However, expense advances to you will come directly from the Southern Office.

The enclosed sheet explaining the function of the Southern Office should give you a clear idea of the communication that should be exchanged between us.

I am presently interested in what has taken place in Dallas in regard to the School Board case. Please let me know.

Sincerely,

Richard Haley

RH/ds

Enclosure

Dallas Chapter

CONGRESS OF RACIAL EQUALITY

(CORE)

EARL E. ALLEN
Regional Representative

2525 FOREST AVE.
HA 8-2312

"Freedom" Hootenanny
Sponsored by CORE!
On Oct. 2, 1964 at
the Highland Hill
Methodist Church at
8 P.M.

CORE Sponsors a

Freedom Hootenanny

Friday, October 2, 1964
at
Highland Hill Methodist Church
at
8:00 P.M.

Students from Bishop, S.M.U., Arlington State and North Texas State!!!

Come one, come all and bring your instruments

Friday Oct 2, 1964 8 P.M.

FIELD REPORT.
THE ORGANIZATIONAL DEPARTMENT
CONGRESS OF RACIAL EQUALITY
38 PARK ROW
NEW YORK, NEW YORK - 10038

1. NAME OF CHAPTER Dallas CORE

2. DATE OF VISIT October 9, 1964

3. *EVALUATION OF CHAPTER (Good, Fair, Poor) Circle One

4. Do you feel that this chapter needs a non-violent workshop? yes_____ no ✓. If yes, how soon should it be given_____ _____.

5. Is current list of officers in the National Office? Yes_____ No ✓. If no, supply at once.

6. If chapter is engaged in direct action, send photos to the Public Relation Department

7. If Chapter is unaffiliated, what are the necessary requirements to make it become affiliated_____

8. What projects are the chapter presently engaged in School desegregation Housing, slum housing

9. Is the Chapter attempting to meet the needs of the community? yes ✓ no_____. If yes, in what way- Housing, Slums and school program

10. Does this chapter have good rapport with the other Civil Rights Groups in the Community? yes ✓ no_____ Explain_____

11. How does your chapter feel National Office can better service them?_____ more material and information

12. Does the chapter need materials, etc? yes ✓ no____ Please list.

13. This report is to be mailed in to the National Office, 48 hours after your visit.

*For your evaluation, use the back if necessary

Return information to
James T. McCain
Director, Organizational
Department.

November 18, 1964

Mr. Thomas Valentine
c/o Dallas CORE
2525 Forest Avenue
Dallas, Texas

Dear Tom,

I am sending $26.55 in check as per your latest expense report. The delay in getting this reimbursement to you is attributable to three factors: the scarcity of money, my own procrastination and the difficulty in understanding your expense reports. Neither of us can do anything about the scarcity but I can remove the procrastination. It is up to you to clerify your reports.

The one for October 13th was good. I found it quite confusing that you submitted two for the week ending October 17th. Just now, in looking at it for the twelfth time, I see that these are sequential reports and not concurrent. So it is necessary in the future for you to do more than one report for the same period, would you mark mark them report no one (1) report no two (2) etc. Another point; if you subtract your weekly expenses from what ever remainder there is of your lost expense advance, and get a minus figure, mark that figure as a debit balance. Your last report for October 17th shows a debit balance of $6.25 your report for October 24th begins with a plus figure of $17.00. Where did the $17.00 come from? You did not carry over the minus $6.25 at all. It seems to have disappeared. The report for October 24th shows a debit balance of $4.70, but it reappears in the November 1st report as $4.00.

Recheck your copies from October 13th through November 14th—— I mean the three figures in the lower right hand corner. The last figure on each report should be the first figure on the report for the following week. Send in the correction to me so I can make the proper adjustments on your reports and get them in to the National Office.

Sincerely,

Richard

RH/vjr

November 30, 1964

Mr. Bruce Baines
2525 Forest Avenue
Dallas, Texas

Dear Bruce,

The enclosed check for $40.00 will hardly answer your future needs, but I hope it will catch up your past debts.

Sincerely,

Richard

RH/vjr

file

2525 Forest Ave.
Dallas, Texas

[1964, Nov]

FIELD REPORT FOR NOVEMBER

Jim McCain
38 Park Row
New York 38, N.Y.

Dear Jim;

I spent the first two weeks of the month traveling in Oklahoma Texas and Arkansas. While in Arkansas Tke and I decided to hold a Southwest Conference on housing, employment, vote of registration and education in Dallas December 11-13.

Since the area we work in have similar problem we decided to work up a State-Wide program which will co-ordinate with all three states at the same time.

After returning to Dallas to workon the Conference I received a letter from Texas College asking that a (CORE) Congress of Racial Equality Chapter be organized. I spent two weeks in Tyler and Tom spent one and the Chapter was organized. Since that time I have spent all my time working on the Southwest Conference to be held here December 11-13.

I plan to visit other Chapter after the Conference is over.

Yours for freedom

Bruce Baines

Bruce Baines
Field Secretary

CONGRESS OF RACIAL EQUALITY

(CORE)

2525 FOREST AVE.
HA 8-2312

REV. EARL E. ALLEN
Regional Representative

[1964, Dec]

Dear Friend:

On December 11-13, James Farmer, National Director of the Congress of Racial Equality, is coming to Dallas for two public speeches and to conduct a series of workshops.

We would like to extend a most cordial invitation to you and members of your organization to attend these meetings and workshops.

Mr. Farmer will deliver an address at a Freedom Banquet at 7:30 P.M. Friday, December 11 at Stemmons Tower, 2720 Stemmons Freeway. (In Johnny Walker's Room) Tickets for this meeting are $5 and $10 and may be purchased from CORE headquarters, 2525 Forest Avenue.

Saturday, December 12, at 7:30 P.M., Mr. Farmer will speak at a free public meeting in the Dallas Memorial Auditorium Theater, Canton at Akard. We hope that as many people as possible will come to this Rally, which will include a stirring talk by Mr. Farmer on Freedom and Equal Rights.

The CORE workshops will be held all day Saturday, December 12, and Sunday afternoon, December 13, in the Warren Methodist Church, Oakland at Peabody. Registration will begin at 4 P.M. Friday, December 11, and again at 8 A.M. Saturday immediately prior to the opening of the workshops. These will be led by Mr. Farmer and National CORE officials

The registration fee is $1.00.

We hope you will be able to attend all of these events. Please call or write us if you need more information, CORE headquarters, 2525 Forest Avenue, HA8-2312.

Sincerely,

Earl E. Allen

FREEDOM BANQUET

CONGRESS OF RACIAL EQUALITY CORE Dallas Chapter

Presents:

JAMES FARMER
National Director, CORE

Donation **$5**

Dec. 11, 1964 8 P.M.

2720 Stemmons Tower(South)

FREEDOM BANQUET

CONGRESS OF RACIAL EQUALITY CORE Dallas Chapter

Presents:

JAMES FARMER
National Director, CORE

Donation **$10**

Dec. 11, 1964 8 P.M.

2720 Stemmons Tower(South)

Have You Got 30 Minutes For Freedom

Every school day, members of the Dallas Chapter of Congress of Racial Equality (C.O.R.E.) and people of this neighborhood are picketing the W.W. Bushman School. C.O.R.E. chose Bushman because it is a perfect example of the restrictions the Dallas School Board is placing on your child's education.

Why must you go through difficult and insulting transfer procedures to enroll your child in your <u>own neighborhood school</u>?

Why must your children above the 4th. grade go sixteen (16) blocks to the nearest Negro school (a school which this year was re-segregated.")

The Supreme Court of the United States ruled more than ten(10) years ago that separate educational facilities were unequal, yet Dallas schools are still almost completely segregated.

Have you got 30 minutes for freedom? Then come out every morning to Bushman at eight O'clock and join our <u>non-violent</u> protest.

We cannot achieve complete equality without your support. JOIN US TODAY! Stand up for your right as an American citizen.

Dallas Chapter of Congress of Racial Equality

MENU

STEAK

BAKED POTATOES SALAD

ROLLS

COFFEE

CONGRESS OF RACIAL EQUALITY

(CORE)

FREEDOM BANQUET

December 11, 1964

7:30 p.m.

2720 Stemmons Tower (South)

Mr. James Farmer
National Director of CORE

Farmer, a native of Marshall, Tex., has been head of CORE since 1961, the year he led the organization's first Freedom Ride into Mississippi.

He helped organize the Congress in 1942.

Farmer received a bachelor's degree in chemistry from Wiley College when he was only 18 and a bachelor of divinity from Howard University in 1941. He was awarded an honorary degree of Doctor of Humanities from Morgan State College in Baltimore, Md., last June.

PROGRAM

Earl E. Allen . . . Master of Ceremony

INVOCATION ..... Rev. Zan W. Holmens, Jr.
Pastor, Hamilton Park
Methodist Church

SONG – "WE SHALL OVERCOME"

WELCOME ..... Hank Carter
President, Local CORE

MUSICAL SELECTION ..... Mr. Karl Gipson
Mr. Raymond Williams,
Pianist

INTRODUCTION OF SPEAKER
Attorney John B. Wilson, Jr.

SPEAKER ..... Mr. James Farmer

MUSICAL SELECTION ..... Mr. Karl Gipson

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

BENEDICTION ..... Rev. Paul Blanton
Director, Methodist Student
Movement – SMU

CORE SOUTHERN OFFICE
2209 Dryades Street
New Orleans, Louisiana 70113

January 20, 1965

Dallas CORE
2525 Forest Avenue
Dallas, Texas

Good Friends,

Many thanks to the office staff for the recent informative letter. I do hope you will push on, in the projects that are presently underway, to the point of successful conclusion.

I am still very interested in Dallas CORE's getting together a plan for a sustained program. Such a program may be limited to even one problem, such as housing or employment of—as you are doing now—the pool tax. A thorough analysis of the problems of such a unilateral project, both in terms of planning and, later, in reviewing its results, will be of great benefit to CORE in many areas where similar problems occur in the future. I'd be very interested in hearing from you just how the pool tax program is coming along, what you plan and how the Southern Regional office can help.

This weekend a conference for Southern Staff will take place here in New Orleans. It will cover three days, and I hope that its results will show in the increase effectiveness of staff in dealing with chapter and project problems. That's the news for now; hope to hear from you again soon.

Sincerely,

Richard Haley
CORE Southern Director

RH/vjj

Mr Baker

Enclosed is a copy of our news letter and a sample agenda from the meeting held 1/5/65. Please send the chapter some care shirts and about 50 fifty blood brother or CORE buttons.

Yours,
D. C. C.

P. S. If you have some information on how we can acquire an inexpensive mimeograph machine, please let me know.

Yours,
D. C. Carter

1/5/65

AGENDA

The

Dallas

Chapter

of

The

Congress

of

Racial

Equality

I. Opening song

2. Minutes of last meeting

3. Chairmans end of year report and emphasis 65

4. Report from committee chairmen

5. Film "Freedom Riders" (20 minutes)

6. New Business

7. Acknowledgement of visitors

8. We shall overcome

9. Adjourn

AGENDA

NEWS LETTER

Check for requests

Dear Friends

Let me begin this new letter by wishing each of you a past date season greetings. As your chairman let me say first that I have waited for some time because of other pressing problems and in large part because of a failure to see the direct possibilities of a newsletter for those who for different reasons fail to attend meetings.

It is the end of the year. A time when we usually reflect on events past.t The Dallas Chapter had its birth in this past year of 64. A bery small but very didicated group of young people meeting at the Highland Hills Methodist Church chose to give substances to an idea and implementation to a long held dream. Our early history is charged with hard won successes. From education and the school board to the Picadilly and public accomondations our infant group moved without the smallest fear of failure. And the prevailing attitude at the time seemed to be one I heard expressed so beautifully at the recent regional convention that: If the road to freedom passes through the jail-houses of this country then there will be found. There were many who felt that this was a small price to pay to personally rejected a century old chain that had too long held men prisoners of their color I, as I am sure many of us did emerged from my short detainment feeling more cleansed of my lethargy and let the other guy do it attitude that if I had been baptized in Jordans river.

From the bowling and a successful out of court settlement we rolled up our sleeves and took on the biggest one yet. Slum Clearance. We learned a hard and bitter lesson that benefited us greatly. That it is hard for people to trust anyone who bolunteer aid in return for no obvious return.

Came the Civil Rights Bill, the end of the summer, and the city seemed to sink back to her state of unaroused day-to-day I'm for me attitude.

Then came the election and Core saw her place and her job. Rolling up her sleeves again the Dallas Chapter teamed with the Committee for Full Citizenship to put over a Voter Education campaign. Armed with voting machine demonstration kits . CORE went to shopping centers ans super markets or whereever the crowd. The respinse was gratifying. And a special tributes I think are due people like Mrs Reed and Mr. Briton and all those engaged for the attitude they carried to the task. The attitude was this: If saying I am with CORE will any way stop me from getting the job done there I will get this job done first and sell the organization second. But while CORE was doing other things she didn't take her eyes away from her objectives; "That of finding and eliminating packets of discrimination that exist in our city." Roys Grill is a prime example of this.

Finally came the Reginal Workshop and a visit from our National Director Mr. James Farmer. This was a supreme challenge at our young organizations abiluty to organize itself and the community in which it exist. I believe everyone involved will agree that Mr. Farmer visit and our workshop was an overall success. CORE was financially able to host Mr. Farmer's complete stay. For a young organization CORE can well be proud of itself.

Now our eight month-old group closes out her first calandar year. What lies in store for CORE. CORE is, has been and will continue to be what you make it.

We need to begin this new year with first of all more financial responsibility on the part of the membership. Our pledge amounts to a minimum of one dollar ($1.00) a month. Ask yourself an I doing my part. CORE needs its office a memeograph machine right away. This will enable us to better inform you an projects and happenings in CORE. Sound equipment, photographic equipment, and some arrangement for refreshments at our meeting are also listed among our needs.

We are still daily faced and affected by the problems of discrimination. "How hollow is the victory if we can eat anywhere or attend any public function if because of continued practices of discrimination we cannot reap the financial resources that will enable us to do so. We must realize that we must give something of ourselves to help others lead themselves out of the darkness of hopelessness and frustration for fear thay remain too long where they are. Therefore our responsibility is to inform the community by door to door if necessary that we care enough to be here.

Hank Carter, Chairman
Dallas Chapter of CORE

January 13, 1965

WEEKLY REPORT

From: Thomas Valentine
To: Richard Haley

I've been working with the Ennis chapter on structure and will be there for another two weeks. That's about as much as I can give you right now on the Ennis chapter.

I came into Dallas on the 12th to view the meeting and these are my observations:

1) The chapter here is currently trying to reorganize and reignite themselves.

2) In the process of reorganizing and reuniting, they are overlooking the basic problem of their difficulty which is their chairman. The chairman hasn't changed in the time we've been away. His ideas and viewpoints are the same. But the elections are only a month away and the nomination ballots will go out in two weeks. I hope someone more qualified will be elected.

3) In the reunification of the chapter, Rev. Allen made a few comments, one being that National CORE had not done anything for the chapter; and that they had to struggle and get as far as they had on their own. This is only an observation and I'm not making any comment one way or the other.

4) Rev. Allen went before the school board today to protest the school boards policy in not letting an integrated debate team enter in the tournament with other Dallas schools. They would not answer his questions, said his" intent was not of the highest interests, and we know why you are here today and do not intend to be put on a court stand". He was then asked to leave. Acopy of their policy is enclosed.

Yours in Freedom,
Thomas Valentine

January 13, 1965

SCHEDUAL

This will be my schedual for the next two months:

Fri. Jan. 25
Go back to Ennis Texas for two weeks to work on organization and structure of the new CORE Chapter. Will send names of officers and where I can be reached.

Jan. 28-30
leave Ennis

Feb. 1-5
tenitive date in Tyler

Feb. 6
Leave for Midland for a week with the CORE Chapter.

Feb. 14-27
Will be in San Antonio

Feb. 27
Leave for Derritta, La. for two weeks.

Mar. 13
Leave Derritta for Dallas to confirm with Bruce and will then send future schedual.

January 8, 1965

To the High-School Principals:

Throughout the years, you have organized speech tournaments and been hosts in your respective buildings in other Interscholastic League contests preceding the regular meets. You have exercised your judgment as to inviting teams from various schools. Likewise, you have accepted invitations to other schools for similar practice tournaments. This practice has been found sound, and, through repetition, has proved its value.

There is no rule or policy of the District restricting invitations to schools or in accepting invitations from other schools because of segregated or desegregated membership of the teams. You will govern yourselves by this directive and make decisions that are beneficial to your own school student bodies, both as to issuing invitations and as to accepting them.

Sincerely yours,

W. T. White
Superintendent of Schools

A News INTERPRETIVE DALLAS MORNING NEWS 1/11/65

Schools Expected to Keep Unwritten Policy on Mixing

By CARLOS CONDE

The first official policy statement by Dallas school administrators on student participation in racially mixed after-school activities is so cautiously stated that it is not expected to change the present "unwritten policy" much.

The new edict seemingly removes all racial boundaries. The unwritten policy discouraged mixed participation.

School Supt. W. T. White mailed the new directive to school principals over the weekend and it will become part of the voluminous school policy handbook.

THE 2-PARAGRAPH policy, however, resembles an iceberg —only about 10 per cent of it is visible.

The part below the surface is left up to the discretion of school principals, who likely will continue to follow the school system's unwritten law on desegregation matters.

That policy has been, and probably will remain, to avoid participating as much as possible and as discreetly as possible in desegregated events.

Dr. White's statement says all high school teams and individuals may participate in desegregated events or host them provided the events are sanctioned by the University Interscholastic League.

THIS INCLUDES every competitive event from football to a debate tournament, which precipitated the controversy when Jesuit High School charged it was told not to enter a Negro member of its team in a Dallas school tournament.

"Throughout the years you have organized speech tournaments and been hosts in your respective buildings in other Ininterscholasic League contests preceding the regular meets," the statement informs the principals.

"You have exercised your judgment as to inviting teams from various schools. Likewise, you have accepted invitations to other schools for similar practice tournaments. This practice has been found sound, and, through repetition, has proved its value.

"THERE IS NO RULE or policy of the district restricting invitations to schools or in accepting invitations from other schools because of segregated or desegregated membership of the teams. You will govern yourselves by this directive and make decisions that are beneficial to your own school student bodies, both as to issuing invitations and to accepting them."

To discerning principals, the guiding statement in the edict is the sentence that says: "You have exercised your judgment as to inviting teams from various schools."

All school principals well know that the judgment which school administrators most prefer is for the principals to skip desegregated activities.

THE NEW POLICY keeps school administrators from having to face the embarrassing issue of desegregation publicly again and again. With an official position announced, the burden of the decision will be on the school principals, who, well-versed in the moods of the upper-echelon administrators, probably will continue to follow the old line.

Teachers who sponsor such activities as debate tourneys have been trying to get the official attitude for some time. Several months ago, a sponsor who made an inquiry about it was told that no integrated events could be held in a public school building here.

"Participating in integrated meets outside the Dallas school system was left open, but it was made quite clear how they felt about it," the sponsor said.

TWO WEEKS AGO, Dr. White answered the Jesuit High debate team controversy by saying he had suggested to principals that they confine speech tournament participation to segregated schools.

He explained that Dallas is under a stair-step integration program, now in its fourth year, and this makes it awkward for Dallas teams to participate in racially mixed activities when such activities are not allowed among students in the Dallas school system.

To most observers, the new policy maintains the same attitude in practice but with a different viewpoint for the record.

Chapters

January 15, 1965

MONTHLY REPORT

TO: Richard Haley
FROM: Dallas CORE

This chapter is trying to reorganize itself completely and is directing most of its efforts toward this goal before any new projects are started. At the last general meeting on January 12th new policy was established for this chapter and all existing committees were disolved. New committees were formed and permanent dates and times established and are being sent to all members in the form of a CORE calendar. Elections are coming soon, within a month, and we hope that by that time there will be a strong structure for the new officers to move into and by then be able to work more efficently.

Other than the reorganization problems that we are trying to correct we have been working with other civil rights organizations here in a poll tax project within the Negro community.

Also we have taken the inititive of contacting church organizations and other interested parties to help fight the recent controversy over the Dallas School Board not allowing Jesuit High School (a local Catholic school) to participate in their debate tournaments unless they withdraw their Negro member. The Chairman of the Catholic Interracial Council spoke to us at a special meeting last night and leaders of all organizations that are interested are getting together in a special meeting to draw up a proclamation to the school board and the newspapers.

Rev. Allen addressed the school board but they refused to answer any questions and asked him to leave after insulting him. This was reported acurately in one of the papers.

There is not much more to say about the state of affairs here in Dallas. We need mostly to get a workable organization before we can be effective and leaders who can run the organization well. There is a growing interest in CORE

spurred on by the recent incident with the school situation I mentioned above. In the last two meetings we have had about a dozen new prospective members and several letters from interested parties in and around the Dallas area. Most of these new people have been very enthusiastic and especially interested in getting the chapter reorganized.

We are still having one major problem however. The National office sends their correspondence to our chairmans home address and the group rarely sees any of this. We do not recieve any material that they send. This is the case with much of the correspondence that should come directly to the office. In our files now we have very little from either the National or the Southern office due to this or his taking material out of the files and carrying it home. It is for this reason that we have not been upholding our obligations to the National Organization or participating in National projects. What little we have done and what we are trying to correct now is because Tom Valentine and Bruce Baines have told some of us the things that we should have known about but have not due to the office not getting some the mail. We, as a group, can not be well informed unless this problem is alleviated.

I will write to you again within a few weeks and report on the situation as it stands then. I feel that we will have most if not all of our basic problems worked out soon.

Thank you,

Stephen Hancock

Stephen Hancock
Chairman, Office Staff

Southwestern Field Report
From November 14, to January 31, 1965

Haley

I returned to New Orleans and began drafting plans for our workshop in Dallas, Tex. December 11-13, 1964. Bruce and I agreed that I would be responsible for the program and all the other paper work involving the workshop. Tom Valentine remained with the group in Tyler to assist them in anywa y that he could and that Bruce was to handle the pro ram from the Dallas end.

We had a meeting in Dallas two weeks befor the workshop to discuss any mistakes we may have made and to study new ideas and additional ways of increasing and maintain interest in the workshop. We each return to our jobs, agreeging to meet again three days prior to the workshops. We return to Dallas three prior to the workshop and began working on last minute details. Two days befor the meeting we discovered that our secretary in New Orleans had mistakenly send notices oc cancellation of the staff meeting to be held in New Orleans to all the CORE chapters. Some of the chapters belive the notices were for the Dallas meeting and change their plans. However all the chapters indicated that they would try to have as many people there as possible, but because of the notice the attendance at the workshop was not as large as we had hope it would be. Dallas, Tyler, Houston, Forth Worth, Tulsa, Oklahoma City, and we had staff people from New Orleans and Monroe, La. in attendance.

The Dallas chapter or perhaps I should say some of the members of the chapters fail to carry out some of its obligations. In addition they have organizational problems that we must accept some of the blame for. We have advocate "grass root chapter organization" and in Dalla we were able to organize such a chapter and then we were face with the problem of finding some common grounds for the upper class, middle class, lower class, whores, robbers, entertainers and the xxxxxxxxxxx unemployed to meete or just how we may blend their talents.

The workshops and dinner were very sucessful programs, however the mass meeting was not the type of meeting that we like to see. We did not interfer in the planning of the mass meeting because we hope the group will learn something from such a failure .

From Dallas, Dave and I went to Montgomery, Ala to discuss the possible use of CORE personal in SCLC's voter registration drive in Alabama. Dave and I agres that because SCLC indicates in their program that they will place emphasis on SCLC as an Organization and the apparent conflict between SCLC and SNICK that CORE should not afford to become involved in Alabama at the present time.

Early in January I visted Miami CORE and found that they are in very bad shape and I would suggest that a staff person be assign to Miami for no less than a month. Most of the month I had pneumoiam and was not able to do very much. I attend the staff meetings in New Orleans when I was able and after being assign to the west coast I filled in at meetings for Dave and the Chairman of New Orleans CORE and worked of reports. I will be leaving New Orleans on the ~~22nd~~ 23rd of February for S. F.

Ike

Isaac Reynolds

2525 Forest Ave.
Dallas, Texas
February 2,1965

Mr. Jim McCain
38 Park Row
New York 38pN.Y.

Dear Mr. McCain,

Enclosed you will find a copy of the Ennis Chapter of CORE constitution and an application for affiliation.

I am asking that this chapter be affiliated. They have been active for the last two months organizing and doing research for future projects. The first project was selling poll tax which ended January 31st. They are now involved in testing public accomodations and integrating the schools.

Their future project is to deal with employment and job opportunity in Ennis.

Yours for Freedom,
Bruce Baines
Bruce Baines,
Field Secretary

BB/sh; ENCLOSURE
Copies sent: Richard Haley
Tom Valentine

February 4,1965

MONTHLY REPORT

TO: Richard Haley
FROM: Dallas CORE

We have just completed our campaign on Poll Tax which I reported on in the last report to you. It was not as successful as we had hoped it would be and at this date the total number of voters registered is not available. However there were a considerable number of negroes registered in comparison to whites in this city. Towards the end of the project a few organizations were formed to combat our efforts to register negroes in some of the suburbs here in Dallas.

One of our former CORE members is running for the school board. Rev. John Bethel announced this about four days ago to the press. He came in yesterday to borrow our file on education. So far he has not announced what district he is going to run for and no organizations have endorsed him yet. There may be some support from LEAD, a newly formed organization that is in opposition to the Committee for Good Schools, who has endorsed every winning candidate on our school board for the past 15 years without an exception. He is going to contact them soon seeking support, LEAD)

Enclosed is a calendar and newsletter that was sent to every member and others who have been in contact with us since this summer actively. There has been much interest and it is growing more strongly every week but we have yet to overcome our problems and difficulties within the organization.

Mr. Nelson Eddie Mason contacted one of our members, Essie Reed asking for information on starting a chapter in Grambling, LA. He is at the college there (Grambling College). I sent him some literature and told him where he could contact Bruce Baines. I have also informed Bruce and passed on his name and address.

At the present we are not working on any specific project and are still concentrating on getting the chapter organized.

The education and employment committees are starting on research to build up our files and to give them information from which they can work. This is a start and from the results that they compile specific areas and problems can then be obtained while at the same time building up leadership through involement.

There is not much more to report on. It is taking longer than expected to work our problems out. There is much apathy on the part of CORE members as well as the community and getting people involved to the point where they will work and do nore than just attend general membership meetings is probably our biggest setback and problem.

Yours for Freedom,

Stephen Hancock

Stephen Hancock,
Chairman, Office Staff

C O R E
CALENDAR & NEWSLETTER

JANUARY

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
17	18	19 executive committee 7:00	20	21	22 employment committee 7:30	23
24/31	25 education committee 7:30	26 general membership meeting 7:30	27	28 membership committee 8:00	29	30

FEBRUARY

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1 education committee 7:30	2 executive meeting 7:00	3	4	5 employment committee 7:30	6
7	8	9 general membership meeting 7:30	10	11 membership committee 8:00	12	13
14	15 education committee 7:30	16 executive committee 7:00	17	18	19 employment committee 7:30	20
21/28	22	23 general membership meeting 7:30	24	25 membership committee 8:00	26	27

CONTACT THE OFFICE FOR DATES AND TIMES ON FINANCE AND HOUSING COMMITTEES.
ALL COMMITTEES MEET IN THE C O R E OFFICE AT 2525 FOREST AVE. HA 8 2312

From the January 12 meeting, the following resolutions were approved by the body:

1) An application fee of $3.00 to be charged for new prospective members when they fill out the application blanks.
2) Dues will be payable monthly rather than annually.
3) All records will be kept in the office and all committee chairmaen and officers will originate and work from the office only.
4) General Membership meetings will be held every other week, alternating with the executive committee on Tuesdays.
5) Every active member must be active in at least one committee and every probate member must be active in two committees before he may be considered for active membership.
6) That a set but flexible agenda be set for the general membership meetings.
7) All previous committees are disolved and the formation of the following committees are to be put into effect as soon as possible:

Employment Committee	Finance & Fund Raising
Education "	Housing & Political Action
Membership "	
Office & Newsletter	

The executive committee also passed some new policy and suggestions on the January 19 meeting which follows:

1) Petty cash in the amount of $10 is to be kept in the office.
2) The office staff is to be responsible for sending the monthly newsletter and calendar out subject to approval by the executive committee.
3) The chairman of the Finance and Fund Raising Committee should be the Treasurer.
4) Each committee chairman is to be responsible for giving a report of every meeting to the executive committee or the general membership.

C O R E needs your support today. We need manpower so the committees can function. Enclosed is a calendar for January and February with the dates and addresses fo all committee meetings. For any information contact the office or any officer or chairman. All meetings are open to members of any status.

CHAIRMAN	Hank Carter	3068 Sunnyvale	FR 6 5039
V.CHAIRMAN	Ted Armstrong	Bishop College	RR 4 9364
SECRETARY	Sheila Ekeson	1324 Highland	DA 8 1216
TREASURER	Essie Reed	2023 Harrell	WH 1 0922
REG. REPRE.	Rev. E. Allen	6006 Flagstaff	CA 5 1214

Committee Chairmen:

Membership Committee	Ted Armstrong	FR 4 9364	
Finance & Fund raising	Essie Reed	WH1 0922	
Office & Newsletter	Steve Hancock	FL 1 1650	
Education Committee	Stanley Gaines	HA 1 7847	(temp)
Employment Committee	V A C A N T		
Housing & Political Action	V A C A N T		

C O R E office 2525 Forest Ave HA 8 2312

CORE SOUTHERN OFFICE
2209 Dryades Street
New Orleans, Louisiana 70113

March 1, 1965

Mr. Steven Hancock
Dallas CORE
2525 Forest Avenue
Dallas, Texas

Dear Steven,

I note from the monthly calendar of Dallas CORE which I recently received, that the body is making some efforts to build up its own inner energy. I think such things as dissolving all committees and reappointing them in a different set up can sometimes be very valuable. Certainly it is better to make a move---any move--- to correct frustration than to sit and wring one's hands over a bad situation. The idea of a three-dollar application fee may be good; I would watch it closely, if I were Dallas CORE, to see if it imposes any undue hardship on the very kind of people you may be trying to bring in the organization.

I understand, I believe, your feeling of disappointment about the Poll Tax drive. Many times we begin a campaign, expect strinking results, and land with a small dull thud, But this is an "occupational hazard" of organization activity. Every project won't be a blazing success. At the same time, you don't know but what the next project you take on will catch fire, and bring in just the kind of interest and support you have been looking for.

Now I am quite aware that Dallas CORE is intesested in concrete suggestions and assistance, not heart-warming platitudes. At this point I feel it would be presumptuous to draw up a list of "concrete suggestions" for Dallas CORE; my experience there is certainly not lengthy enough. However, you could very wàll draw up a list of suggestions yourself, pointing out how this office and our National Office could more effectively assist Dallas CORE in developing its program. Hope to hear from you soon.

Sincerely,

Richard Haley
CORE Southern Director

RH/vjj

Master

CORE SOUTHERN OFFICE
2209 Dryades Street
New Orleans, Louisiana 70113

March 31, 1965

Mr. J. W. Pearce
Director, Local Services Division
United States Post Office Department
Post Office Building
Dallas, Texas

Dear Sir:

Several days ago I received a letter from your office concerning the problems of mail delivery to Negro residents in Jonesboro, Louisiana. Since that time a representative from your office Mr. H. B. Fisher, has visited Jonesboro and conferred with representatives of the Negro community. Mr. Fisher listed some seven criteria delaing with community improvement which must be met before service could be instituted in the neighborhood in question. It was the clear impression of those who attended the meeting that Mr. Fisher indicated the improvements would be carried out by the residents affected. Since his position is quite an expansion of the stipulation laid down by the post office department in your earlier letter, this situation seems to demands clearification.

I am informed that the representatives of the Jonesboro community has already sent a letter listing those criteria, so I won't repeat that. But I must express, for CORE, our surprise at the imposing list of requirements placed on the applicants for service. I hope this is simply a misunderstanding, which can be cleared up by your office. We look forward to your reply.

Sincerely,

Richard Haley
CORE Southern Director

RH/vjj

CORE SOUTHERN OFFICE
2209 Dryades Street
New Orleans, Louisiana 70113

March 24, 1965

Post Office Department
Dallas Regional Office
Main Post Office Building
Dallas 21, Texas

ATTENTION: Mr. J. L. Pearce
Director, Local Services Division

Dear Mr. Pearce,

Thank you for your letter of March 15th concerning improved postal delivery services in Jonesboro, Louisiana. While the extension of delivery to 15 additional families is an improvement, you were no doubt as struck--- as was I--- by the irony of the continuring exclusion of 275 potential deliveries. One asks, "when is progress, progress?"

I have just returned from Jonesboro, No situation or person that I encountered led me to believe that city officials feel any strong inner compulsion to erect street signs and assign house numbers in the Negro area. Consequently I am writing to ask if the Post Office Department can propose an alternative solution which could rest in the hands of the Negro community rather than wait for the acculturation of the officials of Jonesboro. May I have your answer at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely,

Richard Haley
CORE Southern Director

RH/vjj

CORE SOUTHERN OFFICE
2209 Dryades Street
New Orleans, Louisiana 70113

March 1, 1965

Mr. Bruce Baines
2525 Forest Avenue
Dallas, Texas

Dear Bruce,

On reviewing the files I find that it has been quite a while since I wrote a letter to you. This makes it hard for me to complain of the lack of correspondence from you, but I will do so any how. As a matter of fact, this is not a complaint; it's simply a reminder that I'm expecting a report on or about the 25th of February.

A few days ago I sent you a check for $50.00 to be applied as reimbursement for expenses which you have already submitted. I hope to be able to bring your expense account up-to-date soon.

Your report on Arkansas is an interesting one. If you think of this area as having potential for your return to work out a program, I'd suggest that you jot down some ideas on program and on schedule. As things now stand CORE is very cautious about entering new territory because we have more area now than we can service. I realize there are not many chapters in both Texas and Oklahoma put together, but I know also that you have made numerous additional contacts that might form the nuclei of new chapters. Thus it may not be good to spread out too far into Arkansas until you have had a chance to check on these prospective chapters that you have visited in the past. Moreover, you probably well know that there is presently a fear in CORE that we are devoting more time to forming chapters than to giving them service; consequently you should satisfy yourself throughly that chapters now operating are going along well before you by-pass them for new prospects.

The above comments are general guide lines that should be of some help to you in arranging your program; they are not strict rules. Ultimately you will have to use your judgment in making decisions about properly dividing your time.

Let me hear from you soon.

Sincerely,

Richard Haley
CORE Southern Director

RH/vjj

CORE SOUTHERN OFFICE
2209 Dryades Street
New Orleans, Louisiana 70113

April 5, 1965

Mr. Bruce Baines
2525 Forest Avenue
Dallas, Texas

Dear Bruce,

Haven't heard from you lately. Hope you got the check.

Received a letter from Reginald Watson several weeks ago. Watson states that he has been fired from his job in Safeway Stores. His own belief is because of his work with CORE; however, he does not give any supporting evidence, Nevertheless, he asks that CORE support him. I suppose by this he means that we should begin a campaign against Safeways Store's to see that he gets his job back. CORE is of course in no position to do anything on this until somebody has the facts of the case.

What I want you to do is to go to Fort Smith as soon as you can; I suggest that on the assumption that you have not been there for some time. You could make a general survey of the situation there and include the problem of Reginald Watson---if it is still a problem.

A letter I received from Marvin Rich indicates the possibility there may be a good deal additional money for voters registration in case the voting bill passes. This would seem to open the possibility of our hiring extra staff, at least for the summer, to do work in Eastern Arkansas. I'm going to pull out your report and review it with the intent of including that as a recommendation for the expanded voter registration work, in case that become a reality.

Let me hear from you as soon as you can.

Sincerely,

Richard Haley
CORE Southern Director

RH/vjj

Ronnie

Ans'

4627 Imperial St., Apt. 209
P. O. Box 6532
Dallas, Texas 75219
April 22, 1965

CORE Southern Office
2209 Dryades St.
New Orleans, La.

Dear Sir:

Please furnish me with a list of the CORE Chapters in Texas, so that we of the Dallas Chapter may communicate with them.

Respectfully,

Stanley Gaines

Stanley Gaines, Chairman
Dallas Chapter of CORE
Congress of Racial Equality

Get new address

Dallas CORE Newsletter

~~April 10-16, 1965~~

APR 28

The Dallas Chapter of CORE met April 27, and ratified the sending of a letter to Representative Jack Brooks (member of the House Judiciary Committee) concerning amendments to the Civil Rights Bill.

The Open Door Policy was discussed by the Membership Committee at a meeting held Sunday, April 25, 1965.

It was moved and accepted we retain the membership fee at $3.00.

Amendments to the Constitution of the Dallas Chapter of CORE were approved by the membership. Everyone was notified previously by the News letter of the proposed amendments.

Appointments by the Chairman, Stanley Gaines are as follows:

1. Horace Burleson and Willie L. Johnson were appointed organizers for South and West Dallas respectively.

2. Ted Armstrong was appointed for Executive Vice-Chairman of the membership committee.

At the last CORE meeting were several visitors including a delegation from the Greater Oak Cliff Council, Tom Paxton, E. Booth, and Jim Booth. We were glad to see people attend the meeting and express their views.

Our Chairman has urged us to find an office or building suitable to house the CORE office. Anyone having information pertaining to this please call Essie Reed, Chairman of the Office Space Committee, telephone - WH1-0922.

The Auditing Committee meets at Essie Reed's house - 2023 Harrell - Sunday, May 2, at 3 p. m. The members are: Vice-Chairman - Frances Hughes, Iberia Fryer, Willie L. Johnson, and Horace Burleson.

We have received notice of job openings at Southwestern Bell Telephone. Applicants must be high school graduates with average or better grades and preferably have a strong math background.

We thank Mr. James Walker and Mrs. Iva Kindle of the Southwest School of Business Administration for running off the News - letter.

New address 2516 Fo[illegible]

2209 Arroyo
Mrs. Adams St.

Dave Dennison Office

DALLAS CHAPTER OF CORE
CONGRESS OF RACIAL EQUALITY
2525 Forest Avenue — HA 8-2312
Dallas, Texas 75215

ROUTING SLIP

From _____ Date _____

To ___ HALEY
✓ DENNIS
___ BERNSTEIN
✓ HOLLANDER
✓ NUSBAUM
___ JONES
✓ CURRIER
___ _____ _____
___ _____ _____
___ Return to sender
Return to _____
File by _____
Under _____
Other: _____

DALLAS CORE NEWSLETTER
April 20, 1965

Membership Committee meeting Sunday, April 25, 1965, 3:30 p. m. at 1433 Happy Canyon Road. Please attend.

Vice-Chairman Hank Carter has called this meeting of the membership committee and other interested persons to discuss kicking off the membership drive. All members and friends of CORE are urged to attend. Ideas are welcome.

At the April 20 meeting we
1) appointed the "Office Space" Committee
2) received the final report from the Irving Library Committee
3) received a report from the Hootnanny committee
4) began planning the membership drive
5) heard Rev. Allen

The Hootnanny committee reported that the Hootnanny will be held in June. Plainning is underway. For further information call Terry Sorelle---BI 5-2583.

Anyone possessing information on possible office or meeting space get in touch with Essie Reed---WH 1-0922.

The Irving City Council desegregated the public library after pressure was applied by the Irving Human Relations Council.

Rev. Earl Allen attended a meeting of CORE National Action Council two week ago. Discussed was
1) the Louisiana situation
2) support for the Louisiana project from local Chapters
3) ways of establishing relationships with the people and developing leadership among the people with CORE aiding as social advisors
4) the National Convention which will be held July 4th weekend in Durham, N. C.

We thank Mr. James Walker and Mrs. Iva Nell Price Kindle of the Southwest School of Business Administration for running off the newsletter; also Mrs. Bernie Sorelle who painted the direction signs for the meeting last Tuesday.

Chairman Stanley Gaines is now looking into the possibility of securing churches, parks, etc., for a series of freedom programs.

Next meeting we shall
1) vote on constitutional revision
2) make plans for the membership drive
3) hear a report from the "Office Space" committee

Appointments
"Office Space" committee
Ch: Essie Reed
Members: Iberia Fryer, Janice Winkley, Horace Burleson, and Willie L. Johnson.

DALLAS CHAPTER OF CORE
CONGRESS OF RACIAL EQUALITY
2525 Forest Avenue — HA 8-2312
Dallas, Texas 75215

DALLAS, TEX.
AM
24 APR
1965

5c U.S. POSTAGE

CORE
Southern Office
2209 Dryades St.
New Orleans, La.

Dallas

CONGRESS OF RACIAL EQUALITY

(CORE)

2525 FOREST AVE.
HA 8-2312

REV. EARL E. ALLEN
Regional Representative

April 12, 1965

Congress of Racial Equality
2209 Dryades St.
New Orleans La. 70113

Dear Sir:

This is to inform you that on March 30th, the Dallas Chapter of C.O.R. E held its semiannual election.

The new officers are as follows.

Terry Sorelle ----------Parliamentarian
Essie Reed ---------- Treasurer
Iberia Fryer ---------- Secretary
H ank Carter ---------- Vice Chairman
Stanley Gaines ---------- Chairman

If is their is any other information that you need, let us know.

Truly Freedom

Iberia Fryer

Iberia Fryer
Secretary

Master

CORE Southern Office
2209 Dryades Street
New Orleans, Louisiana

April 8, 1965

Bruce Baines, Field Secretary
2525 Forest Avenue
Dallas, Texas

Dear Bruce:

Enclosed are Federal Fund Reports Nos. 2 and 3. I don't have a single extra copy of #1, but am sure that I sent 1 or 2 copies of it to Tom Valentine. Try to get it from him, because it had a lot of information on Texas. I will include Texas, Arkansas and Oklahoma in all future reports.

Enclosed also is a copy of Information Letter No. 9. Please please please take action on the first item (Title VI) and let me know what happens.

Hope all is well there.

Freedom,

Judi Nusbaum
Research/Federal Programs

Enclosure

4627 Imperial Street
P. O. Box 6532
Dallas, Texas 75219
May 14, 1965

Congress of Racial Equality
38 Park Row
New York 38, New York

Dear Sir,

We badly need a mimeograph machine. If you have any available please let us know.. If not, then we would like any information you have concerning the purchase of one at the llwest possible cost.

Thank you,

Stanley Gaines

Stanley Gaines, Chairman
Dallas Chapter of CORE
Congress of Racial Equality

Dallas CORE Newsletter
May 11, 1965

Chairman - Stanley Gaines
Newsletter - Barbara Staab

Office-2516 Forest Avenue
Phone-HA 1-7847

The Dallas Chapter of CORE met May 11, 1965 at 8 p. m. in a classroom of the Forest Avenue Baptist Church.

As all CORE members know, ~~or~~ our Regional Representative, Reverend Earl Allen has done an outstanding job in service to the Congress of Racial Equality and the community at large. To show our appreciation for this we have planned a farewell gathering on or about May 30. Rev. Allen is transferring to Houston to act as chaplian at Texas Southern University. The correct date, time, and place will be announced in the next newsletter. We ask that all members make a guestlist and mail it to Essie Reed at 2022 Harrell immediately so that invitations can be sent out.

Also discussed at the last meeting as a part of our membership drive is a dance beginning a series of dances. These dances will be held in different areas of Dallas to publicize CORE and let people have an opportunity to join. This first dance will be held in west Dallas at Hardman's Skating Rink which Mr. Hardman has donated free of charge. Admission will be $1.25 per person. The correct date is to be published in the next newsletter. The dance will be publicized by posters, and possibly radio and newspapers also. We'll keep you posted.

The Civil Rights Commission held a workshop at the Adolphus Hotel May 7, 1965. Workshops were set up on the following issues:

1. Housing
2. Hospitalization
3. Education
4. Employment

Article 6 of the Civil Rights Bill was discussed there also.

News Notice: The United States Civil Rights Commission is planning on opening an office in the near future in Austin, Texas. The office will primarily be concerned with employment and a proverty program called "The Community Action Program".

New Appointments: Raymond Frye - Community Organizer

Thank you to: Mr. James Walker and Iva Kindle of the Southwestern School of Business Administration for printing the newsletter. Also to the Reverend Greer of the Forest Avenue Baptist Church for letting us use a classroom to meet.

Reminder: All members are reminded that we still need a suitable office and keep looking! Send or phone any information to Essie Reed at 2022 Harrell - Telephone WH 1-0922.

Next meeting we shall: 1. vote on a constitutional amendment. 2. make further plans for the membership drive and the gathering for Rev. Allen. 3. hear reports from all committee chairmen.

Mr. Richard Hagy
CORE Southern Office
2209 Memphis Avenue
Pine Bluff, Ark. 71613

DALLAS CHAPTER OF CORE
CONGRESS OF RACIAL EQUALITY
2525 Forest Avenue — HA 8-2312
Dallas, Texas 75215

Dallas CORE News letter

May 6, 1965

The Dallas Chapter of CORE met May 4, 1965. We urge all members to please attend these weekly meetings in an effort to surge ahead and have all members participate.

Dallas CORE has sent a letter to Anthony Celebrezze, Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare protesting the discriminatory practices at Baylor Hospital concerning ward assignments. A complaint was also registered against Parkland Hospital since they have no Negro interns. We have requested an immediate investigation and report of the facts involved.

CORE's office has temporarily been moved to 2516 Forest Avenue. The new phone number is HA 1-7847. All members are asked to keep looking for a suitable office space.

At the last meeting a doucment entitled "Guidlines for the Future" from James Farmer, National Director of CORE was read. This concerned organizational expansion in the near and far future.

New appointments: Chairman of the Auditing Committee - Frances Hughes.

Our membership drive is getting under way and we ask members to bring a friend with them to meetings.

We thank Mr. James Walker and Mrs. Iva Kindle of the Southwest School of Business Administration for printing the News-letter.

MASTER

May 10, 1965

Mr. Bruce Baines
2525 Forest Avenue
Dallas, Texas

Dear Bruce,

Would you please furnish Mr. Stanley Gaines, Chairman of Dallas Chapter CORE with all CORE chapters in Texas? This is his address:

Mr. Stanley Gaines, Chairman
4627 Imperial Street, Apt. 209
Dallas, Texas 75219

This is very urgent. Thanks.

Sincerely,

Vonnie Jones
Southern office secretary

P.S. Send me a copy of your letter to Mr. Gaines.

Mister

May 10, 1965

Mr. Stanley Gaines, Chairman
4627 Imperial St., Apt. 209
P. O. Box 6532
Dallas, Texas 75219

Dear Mr. Gaines,

I have referred your letter of April 22, to Mr. Bruce Baines Dallas Field Secretary. Within a few days you should get a list of CORE Chpaters in Texas. Mr. Baines address is:

Mr. Bruce Baines
2525 Forest Avenue
Dallas, Texas

Sincerely,

Vonnie J. Jones
CORE Southern Office Secretary

Dallas CORE Newsletter
May 21, 1965

Chairman - Stanley Gaines
Newsletter - Barbara Staab

Office-2516 Forest Avenue
Phone-HA 1-7847

The Dallas Chapter of the Congress of Racial Equality met May 18, 1965 at 8:00 p.m. at the Forest Avenue Baptist Church.

Important Notice: There will be a Farewell Reception for Reverend Earl Allen at the auditorium of St. Anthony's Church, 2711 Romine, May 30, from 4:00 to 7;00 p. m. All members should have their guest lists in by Saturday, May 22. Invitations will be sent out. All people making donations are to be made honorary members of CORE.

A letter has been sent to Boone Powell, headmaster of Baylor Hospital complaining about the segregation in Baylor Hospital. We are waiting one week for a reply before taking action.

The CORE party will be held in west Dallas around the middle of June. We are looking for a band that will be available either June 7th or 9 th. If anyone has any information regarding bands please contact Barbara Staab - FL 7-0986. We look for a large turnout at this party which is to be held at Hardeman's Skating Rink. The co-chairmen of the party committee are Willie L. Johnson and Horace Burleson.

All members who have cars and would be willing to transport people from your neighborhood to our meetings please send us your name, address, and telephone number.

Thanks to Reverend Greer for letting CORE meet in one of the church classrooms. Also thanks to Mr. James Walker and Iva Kindle of the Southwest School of Business for printing the newsletter.

Next Meeting We Shall:

1. Discuss the membership drive
2. Hear reports from the committee chairmen

file with ans.

Dallas CORE Newsletter

June 1, 1963

Chairman - Stanley Gaines Office - 2516 Forest Avenue
Newsletter - Barbara Staab Phone - HA 1-7347

National CORE Convention will be held June 1 through 5. If possible we would like the entire Dallas Chapter of CORE to go. Anyone wishing to attend please get in touch with Essie Reed----HA 1-0922 by June 12.

There will be a CORE-A-Go-Go at Hardeman's Skating Rink, 2030 Kraft, June 1, 1963 at 9:30. Admission $1.25. Local band.

At the June 1 meeting we approved a design for honorary membership certificates submitted by Mrs. Bernie Sorelle and authorized her to have them printed. These certificates will be given to persons who donate services or money to CORE.

The United States District Court for the northern district of Texas has requested that we submit fifteen names for prospective jurors. Anyone willing to serve on a federal jury please call HA 1-7347 and leave your name by June 8.

Next meeting we shall discuss the dance and convention.

<u>Thanks to:</u> Mrs. B. Sorelle. To Reverend W. A. Greer of the Forest Avenue Baptist Church for letting us use a classroom to meet. Also to Mr. James Walker and Mrs. Iva Kindle of the Southwestern School of Business Administration for the newsletter.

Regional Office

Reports - TWAS

1964 June - 1965 May

TEXAS - ENNIS Chapter
1965, Feb - March, May

Ennis, Texas
Sept. 22, 1965
563 East Loggins
Loggins

Dear Mr. Haley,

Repost the Ennis Chapter of the Congress of Racial Equality is currently active in a unique School situation. It has to pertain with a Negro Football game. Whereby, the Supt. segregated the game. They have sent a letter to the School System of Ennis in this matter. They are also circulating a petition concerning this incident.

Recommendation: Their recommendation is. (1) To intergrate the schools on the district level, what I mean by this is, when they file suit to desegregate it will be the (1st) first grade. Then we will try and get ~~then~~ a parent to desegregate the (7th) then the 12th.

See, what we are trying to do is catch all the grades from 1st - 12th and there by desegregate the whole system. We think by filing suit in this manner, we get away from the grade ~~scale~~ a year plan. It may seem like an unusual idea, but in reality getting students for each grade in the above grades I mention, would ~~like~~ look like to me a way to desegregate from

1st thru 12th. Please take this under close consideration. I think it is a very good plan and I don't think it has been tried before. Because you see, we will have (8) eight parents and their children, starting out to apply for these grades. These eight parents will make the initial group and then others will follow.

Yours in Freedom,
Thomas Valentine

February 15, 1965

J. W. McCoy, Superintendent
Billy J. Colvin, President
Ennis Independent School District

Gentlemen:

The Ennis Chapter of the Congress Of Racial Equality is interested in familiarizing itself with the opportunities for educational advancement offered by the Ennis Independent School District.

We would like to have an opportunity to visit and view the various facilities of the district at a mutually convenient time. We will designate a committee of our representatives for this matter and will have them available at such mutually convenient time as may be arranged.

We would thank you for a prompt reply.

Sincerely,

Chairman

We furthur urge that this matter be taken up by the Board at its next meeting in public and that the Board's action be made a matter of public record.

NAME ADDRESS

CORE SOUTHERN OFFICE
2209 Dryades Street
New Orleans, Louisiana 70113

March 1, 1965

Mr. Thomas Valentine
503 East Loggins
Ennis Texas

Dear Tom,

I received your letter concerning school de-segregation in Ennis. You will have to explain more about the Negro football game and its relation to the desegregation; I confess I don't understand the connection just now.

Concerning a desegregation plan, again I don't understand the relationship between attempting to desegregate the first, seventh and twelfth grades on the one hand, and total desegregation on the other. As far as I know, the most effective grade-a-year plan is to begin desegregation at the twelfth grade, then extend it to the eleventh, etc. This is in some ways preferable to the grade-a-year plan beginning at the first grade, because it means that everyone presently in school will get some integrated schooling before graduation.

Discuss your plan with the lawyer who is going to handle the case, however; he will be able to analyze your proposal much more skillfully than I. Take care.

Sincerely,

Richard Haley
CORE Southern Director

RH/vjj

~~Pre~~-registration for Children 6 on or Before Sept. 1 Is Set

Pre-registration of children who will be 6 years old on or before September 1st, 1965, will be held at the Houston, Austin, Travis, and Dorie Miller Elementary School's Wednesday, May 12, 1965, during the hours of 7:30 a.m. to 8:30 a.m. and also from 2:30 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Said Supt. James W. McCoy:

"It is very important that all children entering school for the first time be included in this registration. Each parent must present a Certified Birth Certificate for the child at the time of registration. A copy of the Certificate will be made and the parent's copy will be returned.

"Please keep the above dates and hours in mind. We hope that it will be possible for every parent to cooperate with the school Principals in this undertaking."

Here is the letter to parent or guardian:

Dear Parent or Guardian:

Please complete the information below and indicate your choice of schools you wish your child to attend next year, then make sure this form is filed with the principal of the school your child now attends. This is necessary if we are to know the number of students who plan to attend the various schools in our system. This form must be completed, signed, and on file by July 1, 1965, if it is to be considered.

I would like for my child, ...,
who will be enrolled in the..... grade in school next year, to attend the..... School during the 1965-66 school year. I understand that if this free choice is approved, my child will remain in this particular school for the full school term of 1965.66.

I further understand that if the rooms in the school of my choice become too crowded, those students who reside closest to the school shall be approved, regardless of race, color, or national origin.

Signed:.....

Address:.....

.....

Date filed with principal

ANDA Men

is Dai

ENNIS, TEXAS, TUESDAY, MAY 11, 1965

REPORT OF ENNIS CHAPTER OF CORE
Ennis, Texas

May 17, 1965

Mr. Richard Haley
2209 Dryades Street
New Orleans, La.

Dear Mr. Haley:

This is my long awaited report as follows:

We had a meeting set up with the School Board for the 2nd Thursday in May but as it turned out we didn't have to attend. The facts are... They had a secret meeting without the knowledge of citizens so we could not attend.

What they did at the meeting was this; to completely desegregate the Ennis Independent School District ranging from Kindergarden to the twelveth grade. They are using two systems. They areas follows:

1. The 1st one is the transfer plans
2. Students attending my district locals

I will send you the clippings so that you might have more details.

What we are doing now in Ennis is attending meetings with parents of the children to try to get them to send their children to previously all White Schools.

We are also, asking them to send in transfers for the children living outside the school District for there is a small chance that children our side of the School District might get in.

Yours for Freedom,

Thomas Valentine

Thomas Valentine
Task Force Worker

[1965?]

Ennis CORE Constitution

ARTICLE I NAME

The name of the group shall be Ennis, Chapter, Congress of Racial Equality.

ARTICLE II PURPOSE

CORE is an organization of individuals, preferably interracial, working to abolish distinctions based on skin color, religion and national origin through direct non-violent methods. Demonstrations shall be resorted to only after all other means have been exhausted.

ARTICLE III MEMBERSHIP

Any person vitally interested in the program of CORE and who tests its qualifications is elgible for membership in CORE.

(a) The CORE group shall consist of active members, probate members, associate members, and friends of CORE.

(b) To become an active member of CORE a person (1) must have been a probate member for 4 weeks or a friend of CORE, regularly attending meetings and or demonstrations for 4 weeks. (2) be sponsored by a member and be interviewed and instructed by the membership committee, (3) agree to abide by the Constitution and the CORE Rules for Action, (4) must be accepted by two-thirds vote, taken by secret ballot, of the members present and voting. (5) must be willing to participate in direct non-violent action.

(c) A probate member is a person seeking full membership as an active member.

(d) An associate member is one who gives financial assistance but does not desire to become an active CORE member.

(e) A Friend of CORE is a person who participates in demonstrations, tests, and meetings but is not an active member with voting priveleges.

(f) Only Active members of CORE may hold office. Members of all capacities may participate in discussion on the floor but only Active CORE members may vote for officers and on questions involving (1) CORE policy, (2) acceptance of new members, (3) amendments of changes in constitution and By-Laws.

(g) At the request of 3 active members, a member may be subject to expulsion after a hearing and two-thirds of members voting for expulsion. Any person so expelled may appeal within thirty days to the National Office for referral of his case to the next meeting of the National Action Council or Covention of CORE.

(h) Any member who misses two consecutive meetings without a legitimate excuse will automatically be placed on probation for one month, during which time he relinquishes voting privileges and must attend all general and mandatory meetings. Any office holding member who is placed on probation twice within any given fiscal year automatically relinquishes his office.

(i) Should any person be admitted to active membership by a local group adn his membership found to be in conflict with the RESTRICTION OF MEMBERSHIP in the National Constitution, it shall be held that his admission was through error and therefore void.

ARTICLE IV DUES AND FINANCES

(a) Dues shall be pledged by each member on a monthly basis, pledging a minimum of one-dollar monthly.
(b) The fiscal year shall begin on June 1st and end on the following May 31st.
(c) Additional funds shall be raised through funds appeals, donations, social, and other activities.

ARTICLE V OFFICERS AND ELECTIONS

(a) The officers of Ennis, CORE shall consist of Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Recording Secretary, Financial Secretary, Corresponding Secretary, and Treasurer.
(b) Officers shall be elected for one year term.
(c) Officers to be elected in the last meeting of the fiscal year.
(d) The duties of the offices shall be as follows:
1. The Chairman shall preside at the meeting and shall have the authority to appoint committees, to appoint spokesmen for the group action projects, and to cast the deciding vote in the event of a tie.
2. The Vice-Chairman shall take over the duties of the Chairman in the event of his absence. The Vice-Chairman shall be Chairman of the membership committee and in charge of orientating new members.
3. The Recording Secretary shall take minutes of meetings and keep a record of all CORE activities.
4. The Financial Secretary shall be responsible for keeping a financial record and making reports at regular intervals (preferably) at every meeting, for keeping dues records and collecting dues from each member.
5. The Corresponding Secretary shall be responsible for all correspondence.
6. The treasurer shall be responsible for maintaining a bank account and issuing checks signed by the treasurer, financial secretary and Chairman.
(e) Notice of elections must be sent to the membership at least two weeks before the said election, and two notifications are preferable.
(f) A Nomination Committee appointed by the Chairman shall prepare a slate of candidates. Additional nominations may be made from the floor. Election shall be by secret ballot. A plurality (majority) of votes cast shall constitute an election. (NOTE: if majority is used, a provision must me made for a run off election.)
(g) There must be a quorum present before action can be taken on any matter which requires the vote of active members only. A quorum shall consist of 10 active members in good standing.
(h) In the event an office becomes vacant it shall be filled by special election unless a regular election will be held in six weeks. In the latter case the chairman may appoint a person to fill an unexpired term.

ARTICLE VI MEETINGS

(a) CORE meetings are not open to the public and only Active members, Associate members, Probate members, Friends of CORE, and individuals invited by a member have the right to attend. During discussion on any application by a probate member for full membership, all persons not active members in good standing shall be asked to leave the room.

(b) The distribution of political and or religious literature or the literature of any other group is prohibited immediately before, during or immediately after CORE meetings and demonstrations, However any representative of another organization invited to speak before CORE may distribute the literature of the organization he represents.

ARTICLE VII AMENDMENTS

Notice of changes in the Constitution must be sent to the membership for two consecutive weeks before such changes are to be voted upon. Amendments shall be incorporated into this Constitution upon approval by two-thirds of the members voting.

List of officers of the Ennis Chapter, Congress of Racial Equality

Chairman	Raymond C. Coleman
vice chairman	Lorenza Bowens
Recording Secretary	Orelia Myers
Financial Secretary	Gloria D. Curtiss
Corresponding Secretary	Joseph B. Coleman
Treasurer	V. L. Stapleton

Partial list of problems to be solved by Ennis Chapter, Congress of Racial Equality:

Public School Integration

Equal Job Opportunities

Integration of Public Facilities

Texas - Tyler Chapter
1904, Dec - 1905, April

December 2, 1964

Bruce Baines
2525 Forest Avenue
Dallas, Texas

Dear Bruce:

On November 13th we wrote to you asking for a report recommending Tyler CORE for affiliation. As of today we have not received it. Jim is very anxious to have the report by Dec. 17th for the Steering Committee meeting if you want them to be affiliated. Again, the report should include what projects the chapter has been involved in, what they are doing now, and their future plans.

Hope all is well

Sincerely yours,

Maxine Skurka
Department of organization

cc: Richard Haley

Bruce Baines

December 4, 1964

Jim McCain
38 Park Row
New York 38, N.Y

Dear Mr. McCain:

I am sorry I am late in answering your letter but I Have been tired up on the Meeting held in Dallas, December 11-13th.

I recommend that Tyler CORE be affiliated. I spent (2) or (3) weeks there with the Group and Tom carried on a Non-violent workshop for a week.

The Chapter's first project was to send letters to the City Council asking that the signs from the Rest Rooms of the County Court house and other City and State Buildings be removed.

They are now working on a membership drive for the Chapter, then future plans are to get Negroes hired in the local Banks down town in Tyler, Texas and to work on voters Registration.

Yours for Freedom,

Bruce Baines
Field Secretary

January 19, 1965

Mr. John R. Bethel, Chmn.
John F. Kennedy CORE
c/o Texas College
Tyler, Texas

Dear John Bethel:

This is to inform you that your chapter was affiliated at the Steering Committee meeting in New York City on January 16, 1965.

Welcome to the CORE family. Please be in touch with us regularly in the form of monthly reports on your chapters activities. Do not hesitate to call on us for any help you might need.

Sincerely yours,

James T. McCain
Director of Organization

JTM:ms
cc: Bruce Baines
Richard Haley

File Chapters

CORE SOUTHERN OFFICE
2209 Dryades Street
New Orleans, Louisiana 70113

Ask Tom Valentine for info.

February 23, 1965

Mr. John R. Bethel, Chairman
John F. Kennedy CORE
c/o Texas College
Tyler, Texas

Dear John,

The CORE Southern Office is the southern arm of the CORE National office. This office is prepared to furnish each chapter with:

1. Staff help in setting up local projects
2. Literature for local information and publicity
3. The CORE-lator, every two months
4. Contact with legal aid
5. Newsletters to and from other CORE areas
6. Miscellaneous services as the needs arise

It is not the intention of the CORE southern office to take over any function now being carried on by your state office or any other CORE representative. Rather, we stand by to offer services not otherwise available.

Sincerely,

Richard

Richard Haley
CORE Southern Director

RH/vjj

file T. Valentine

Haley [1965, Feb?]

C.O.R.E. CONSTITUTION

ARTICLE 1 NAME

The name of the group shall be the John F. Kennedy Chapter, Congress of Racial Equality, of Tyler, Texas.

ARTICLE 11 PURPOSE

CORE is an organization of individuals, preferably interracial, working to abolish distinctions based on skin color, religion and national origin through direct non-violent methods. Demonstrations shall resort to only after all other means have been exhausted.

ARTICLE 111 MEMBERSHIP

Any person vitally interested in the program of CORE and who meetsits qualifications is elgible for membership in CORE.

(a) The CORE group shall consist of active members, probate members, associate members and friends of CORE.

(b) To become an active member of CORE, a person (1) must have been a probate member for 4 weeks or a friend of CORE, regularly attending meetings and/or demonstration for 4 weeks, (2) be sponsored by a member and be interviewed and instr cted by the membership committee, (3) agree to abide by the Constitution and the CORE Rules for Action, (4) must be accepted by two-thirds vote, taken by secret ballot, of the members present and voting, (5) must be willing to participate in direct non-violent action.

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(e) A friend of CORE is aperson who participatesin demonstrations, tests and meetings but is not an active member with voting privileges.

(f) Only Active members of CORE may hold office. Members of all capacities may participate in discussion on the floor but only Active CORE members may vote for officers and on questions involving (1) CORE policy, (2) acceptance of newmembers, (3) amendments of changes in the Constitution and By-Laws.

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(h) Any member who misses two consecutive meetings without alegitimate excuse will automatically be placed on probation for one month, during which time he relinquishes voting privileges and must attend all general and mandatory meetings.

1. Any office holding member who is placed on probation twice within any given fiscal year automatically relinquishes his office. (i) Should any person be admitted to active membership by alocal group and his membership found to be in conflict with the RESTRICTION ON MEMBERSHIP in the National Constitution, it shall be held that his admission was through error and therefore void.

ARTICLE 1V FINANCES

(a) The fiscal year shall begin on June 1st and on the following May 31st.

(b) Additional funds shall be raised through fund appeals, donations social and other activities.

ARTICLE V OFFICERS AND ELECTIONS

(a) The officers of ~~~~~~CORE shall consist of Chairman, Vice Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, Public Relations and Parliamentarian.

(b) Officers shall be elected for a semester:

1. The Chairman shall preside at the meetings and shall have the authority to appoint committees, to appoint spokesman for the group action projects, and to cast the deciding vote in the event of a tie.

2. The Vice Chairman shall take over the duties of the Chairman in the event of his absence. The Vice Chairman shall be Chairman of the Membership Committee and in charge of orientating new members.

3. The Secretary shall take minutesof meetings and keep a record of all CORE activities and shall be responsible for all correspondence.

4. The Treasurer shall be responsible for keeping a financial record and making reports at regular intervals. For maintaining a bank account and issuing checks with the signature of the Chairman, Vice Chairman and this Officer.

5. The Parliamentarian shall be in charge of seeing that Parliamentary procedures of Robert's Rule of Order are followed.

(d) Notice of elections must be sent to the membership at least two weeks before the said election, and two notifications are preferable.

(e) A Nominating Committee appointed by the Chairman shall prepare a slate of candidates. Additional nominations may be made from the floor. Election shall be by secret ballot. A plurality (majority) of votes cast shall constitute an election.

(f) There must be a quorum present before action can be taken on any matter which requires the vote of active members only. A quorum shall consist of 10 active members in good standing and by open ballot.

(g) In the event an office becomes vacant it shall be filled by special election unless a regular election will be held in six weeks. In the latter case, the Chairman may appoint a person to fill an unexpired term.

ARTICLE VI MEETINGS

(a) CORE meetings are not open to the public and only active members, associate members, probate members, friends of CORE and individuals invited by a member have the right to attent. During discussion on any application by a probate member for full membership, all persons not active members in good standing shall be asked to leave the room.

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ARTICLE VII AMMENDMENTS

Notice of changes in the Constitution must be sent to the membership for two consecutive weeks before such changes are to be voted upon. Ammendments shall be insorporated into the Constitution upon approval by two-thirds of the members voting.

Master

April 7, 1965

National Action Council
38 Park Row
New York, N.Y.

Dear Sir:

With reference to one of the C. O. R. E. Chapters in Texas, I would ask that the John F. Kennedy Chapter in Tyler, Texas be dis-affiliated. Reasons are as follows:

(a) The College students that made up the Chapter, finished school the first semester and the Chairman is working in Dallas, Texas.

(b) We have not been able to find any other person on or off campus interested in C.O.R.E.

So, I feel that the chapter should be dis-affiliated in Tyler Texas.

Yours for Freedom

Bruce Baines

2525 Forest Avenue
Dallas, Texas 75215

—

with letter
from Prince
Brinn

No. will do at next meeting. fbr

APR 30 1965

CORE Southern Regional Office
2209 Dryades Street
New Orleans, Louisiana

April 27, 1965

Mr. George Wiley
38 Park Row
New York 38, New York

Dear George:

Sometime before NAC meeting I received a letter from Bruce Baines recommending that the John F. Kennedy chapter in Tyler, Texas, be disaffiliated. Earl Allen brought a copy of this letter to NAC with the intent of proposing said disaffiliation. As I missed some of the session, I wonder if this was done? Could you advise me.

Sincerely,

Richard

Richard Haley
CORE Southern Director

RH/gjm

CORE Southern Regional Office
2209 Dryades Street
New Orleans, Louisiana

April 27, 1965

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38 Park Row
New York 38, New York

Dear George:

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Sincerely,

Richard Haley
CORE Southern Director

RH/gjm

Texas - Miscellaneous Chapters
1964, June, Oct, Dec

FIELD REPORT.
THE ORGANIZATIONAL DEPARTMENT
CONGRESS OF RACIAL EQUALITY
38 PARK ROW
NEW YORK, NEW YORK - 10038

1. NAME OF CHAPTER San Antonio

2. DATE OF VISIT October 12 - 13, 1964

3. *EVALUATION OF CHAPTER (Good, (Fair), [redacted] Circle One

4. Do you feel that this chapter needs a non-violent workshop? yes_____ no_____. If yes, how soon should it be given_____ _____.

5. Is current list of officers in the National Office? Yes_____ No ✓_____. If no, supply at once.

6. If chapter is engaged in direct action, send photos to the Public Relation Department

7. If Chapter is unaffiliated, what are the necessary requirements to make it become affiliated_____

8. What projects are the chapter presently engaged in testing public accomodations in city and county

9. Is the Chapter attempting to meet the needs of the community? yes ✓_____ no_____. If yes, in what way-_____

10. Does this chapter have good rapport with the other Civil Rights Groups in the Community? yes_____ no ✓_____ Explain_____

11. How does your chapter feel National Office can better service them? more visits by people from the national staff

12. Does the chapter need materials, etc? yes ✓ no____ Please list.

13. This report is to be mailed in to the National Office, 48 hours after your visit.

*For your evaluation, use the back if necessary

Return information to
James T. McCain
Director, Organizational
Department.

Texas

June 16, 1964

Mr. Charles Kelly
Executive Director
The Houston Council on Human Relations
5403 Austin Street
Houston, Texas

Dear Mr. Kelly:

Thank you very much for your letter of June 5th, offering to help the students who will be working in the South this summer.

We are sending a copy of your letter to the Director of our Southern Regional Office, Mr. Richard Haley. His office is at 2211 Dryades St., New Orleans; and our Texas Field Secretary, Mr. Isaac Reynolds, 917 N. Tonti Street, New Orleans. I am sure they will be in touch with you concerning any projects in the Houston area.

Thank you again

Sincerely yours,

Maxine Skurka
Department of Organization

cc: R. Haley
I. Reynolds

OFFICERS

*G. E. DODD, M.D.
PRESIDENT

*HENRY GROPPE
VICE PRESIDENT

*MISS BARBARA JORDAN
RECORDING SECRETARY

*LELAND G. MARSTERS, JR.
TREASURER

BOARD MEMBERS

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*MRS. HOWARD BARNSTONE
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JOHN N. BARNHART
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*MARY ELLEN GOODMAN, PH.D.
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CHARLES R. GREGG
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THE REV. THOMAS J. GRIFFIN
THE RT. REV. JOHN E. HINES
MRS. EUGENE H. HUGHES
MRS. WALTER R. KAYE
MAX A. KING
THE REV. WM. A. LAWSON
REV. JOHN MCCARTHY
*THE REV. JAMES R. NOLAND
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DR. B. A. TURNER
MRS. A. S. VANDERVOORT, JR.
CARL WALKER, JR.
WALTER WHITSON

STAFF

CHARLES R. KELLY
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

MRS. GEORGE K. DUNBAULD
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

*EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

THE HOUSTON COUNCIL ON HUMAN RELATIONS

5403 AUSTIN STREET HOUSTON, TEXAS 77004
JACKSON 6-1829

June 5, 1964

JUN 8 1964

Mr. Norman Hill
Congress on Racial Equality
38 Park Row
New York, N. Y. 10038

Dear Mr. Hill:

The Houston Council on Human Relations is prepared to assist in any way with the students involved in the South this summer. If we can act as a contact group or clearing house we would be glad to do so.

If any members of your organization visit Houston please inform them of our availability. We are associated with the Southern Regional Council and act in some capacity as the state council in other states.

Best wishes to you and your work this summer.

Sincerely,

Charles Kelly
Executive Director

CK:MBC

CORE SOUTHERN OFFICE
2209 DRYADES ST.
NEW ORLEANS, LA. 70113

[1964, Dec]

Reverend Russell Jack Ballard
1207 Kemp Boulevard
Wichita Falls, Texas

Dear Reverend Ballard

Your interest in CORE was brought to the attention of this office and myself several months ago, however I was not personally able to vist Wichita Falls at that time.

We were informed that Bruce Baines, Field Secretary and Rev. Earl Allen, Regional Representative, had visted Wichita Falls and had not found enought local interest in CORE. If an error in judgement has been made, we certainly want to correct it as soon as possible. I will be at the workshop in Dallas (Dec 11-13) from the eight of December through the workshop and would like very much to extend an invitation to you and anyone else wishing to attend the workshop from Wichita Falls to do so.

I am sure that this matter can be clear up through meeting you and other interested people from Wichita Falls and after a vist to Wichita Falls we can serious thought to forming a CORE chapter if the situtation warrants it. I sincerely hope to see you and other Wichita Falls Freedom Fighters in Dallas.

Sincerely yours,

Isaac Reynolds
Field Secretary

cc: Richard Haley
Jim McCain
Earl Allen
Bruce Baines

/ir

CORE
Regional Office

Reports - Washington

1964, April-
1965, August

Western Regional Field Office
CONGRESS OF RACIAL EQUALITY
2085 Sutter Street
San Francisco, California
JOrdan 7-3430

MINUTES

CORE REGIONAL CONFERENCE

San Francisco, California
April 17, 18, 19, 1964

TO ALL CHAPTERS:

Thank you for bearing with us and all our last minute emergencies.

Please read these minutes and let me know if there are any additions or correction. It's about 3 AM and I'm still typing, so I'm rather foggy, but I hope I didn't miss anything.

Please remember that decisions made by the delegates from any chapter to this conference are not binding on that chapter. Your membership must vote on the proposals set forth at the conference.

After you have voted, please mail the results in to me at the Regional office at your earliest possible convenience. I will, in turn, mail the total results to all chapters. But I can't do this until all of the chapters have responded. You have some good actions proposed here, but we can't do anything about them until we have chapter approval.

COREdially,

Lois Rogers for
Chet Duncan, Regional Field Secretary

EDUCATION PANEL

1. Counsellors should be forced to give general counsel to all students, instead of grouping minority students into mechanical training just because of their race.

2. At the present time, in most cities, teachers who are of a minority race are located for the most part in minority group areas. Chatpers should find out how many teachers of a minority race are teaching in their area. Find out in which shcools they are located and why.

3. Schools should be encouraged to find out where the business opportunities lie and to tell the students about these opportunities, especially minority group students.

4. Using the threat of no participation in school vote elections is sometimes a good way to get education programs passed. Also the defeat of school budget issues.

5. Each chapter will have to find out how to involve the parents of students in CORE education programs.

6. A possible school boycott was suggested for the State of California, and possibly for the entire region.

7. A report was given on the Negro in American History Textbooks, and the importance of including Negro history in our textbooks was discussed. (The Regional Office has several copies of this very informative report if the chapters want it.)

8. It was suggested that the Western Region have a west coast CORE-lator for public use.

POLITICAL ACTION

The discussion centered around the desireable relationship of civil rights groups and action groups to the political arena.

1. The initiative (housing) will be on the November ballot in California. Most educators in California endorsed putting the initiative on the June ballot. Only the American Federation of Teachers has come out publicly stating ways for positive steps towards integration of schools.

If this initiative passes it will influence not only California, but the entire country regarding civil rights. Chapters must give it priority until November.

2. The basic determinant of decisions by legislators is the vote. All that politicias do, they do with the thought of election or defeat in the next election. Chapters must make an effort to defeat elected officials if those officials don"t pass legislation that the chapters feel is necessary legislation.

3. 30% of registered voters of the working class become unregistered each election. A door to door campaign is the only way to register voters.

4. All political action is due to conflict within the power structure. How effective are laws? Should they be the center of efforts as they exist or should they be changed. Remember that social pressures bring social changes; the decision to put the initiative on the November ballot was done only after the Sheraton Palace Hotel demonstration in San Francisco.

5. CORE members seem to have a lack of respect for politics and politicians. All decisions in the government are partisan. You must get into the community and talk to the people about political issues; political action for against any particular politician. You should have a political or legislative action committee to find out what the legislature is doing. You must visit the candidates for elections to make your chapter's feelings known to them.

6. Laws are not necessarily the answer to racial, social and economic problems. They are the instrument that can be used to get that answer. You must force governmental leaders to make public committments. Laws and direct action should work together.

7. CORE should not expect the politicians to come to the chapters for political help. Instead, they should go to the politicians. Find out what they are doing. If you see that they recommending legislation which you feel is good, then back those issues. Get public support for those issues. You may not feel that a particular politician is militant enough, and you may not agree with all his views, but if you find that that politician is introducing good legislature then you should back that politician.

POLITICAL ACTION Cont'd.

8. If you feel that a particular politician is working against your aims, the worst thing you can do is ignore him. Get into his camp. Find out the inner workings of his group. This is the only way you can defeat him.

9. An example of how you can help make politicians work for you. Assemblyman Mervyn Dymally, Los Angeles, has organized a conference of the unemployed for the purpose of bringing the grievances of the unemployed to the attention (active attention) of the legislators and business leaders. This conference will take place May 7. Southern California CORE groups should be working HARD to help insure the presence of the unemployed at this conference.

If any politician in your area is doing something which could be beneficial to our fight, and you give him assistance in his action, you should have no qualms about going to that politician and saying to him, in so many words, "OK, buster, we supported you in that, now you support us in this." When you are able to show the politicians that you are able to sway the people in your direction, the politician will have no choice but to back you because he needs the vote of those people, and he knows how easily votes are swayed by organizations.

BANK OF AMERICA

1. Three negotiations meetings have been held with B of A. The bank has issued a press release stating that it will not give in to irresponsible groups and that it will not give statistical breakdowns to non-governmental agencies. It offered to meet with FEPC.

2. Our basic demands are for Equal Opportunity Employer signs and advertising; a statistical breakdown; and periodic meetings; and turnover data.

3. We did not enter the negotiations with any idea of direct action. If the negotiations breakdown after the bank's consideration of our basic demands (and we cannot compromise on these demands because they are esential to the entire program.) only then will we consider direct action. Each chapter should get exec board approval now for direct action if negotiations break down. General membership approval can wait until such time as negotiations have actually broken down, if it happens.

4. A meaningful climate for negotiations has been established, but if the problems cannot be resolved in negotiations, be prepared for direct action, but also be ready for agreement.

5. No chapter is to engage in separate negotiations with their local B of A, by decision of the January statewide CORE conference, which was approved by the local chapters involved.

6. If direct action is to take place, it would be done in each local area. Each chapter will be in charge of its direct action program, public relation, and other facets of any direct action program. You must determine in your own area which kind of community support is necessary. But, negotiations will remain under the jurisdiction of the statewide B of A negotiating team. The dissemination of information will come from the negotiating team.

7. In one year, of the 45,000 jobs in existence in B of A, 45% will open up as a result of B of A's annual turnover.

8. Although this was primarily a California project, it must be remembered that Bank of America is the largest corporation in the world. THINK ABOUT IT!

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

There was discussion of the recent sit-in demonstration in and around the Capitol building and in the Senate Chambers in Phoenix, Arizona, the home of one of our newest chapters. The Phoenix delegation explained how they went about involving the community. They flooded the Negro community homes and businesses with leaflets. as well as making personal contacts in the form of talks, etc.. They were able to show the Community that CORE was working for the community. The issue was the Public Accomodations Bill being considered by Senate in Arizona.

HOW TO INVOLVE UNIONS - Contact those unions that publically supported the March on Washington. Remind unions of the union actions in the '30's. Remind them that CORE is using the same tactics (those that were non-violent) that the unions used. Go the the union locals and tell them about CORE activities. Every state has a state Federation of Labor, and every county and every major city has a Central Labor Committee. These groups have civil rights committees, and these committees should be contacted and familiarized with CORE.

California should get the support of unions on the Bank of America project because it does not have a union, and because it is the power structure of the state.

CHURCH INVOLVEMENT - Ministers who support CORE are usually the miilitant ones, and don't necessarily represent their congregations or communities. Many Southern Baptists have come north and started churches. These people are strong potential allies of CORE. If we use psychology, we can get a lot of support from churches. We could get them to compete to see which church can make the largest financial contribution to civil rights.

Negro social clubs: Negroes in social clubs are not ready to demonstrate, but they can raise money for the cause. Middle class Negroes in clubs are a reservoir of financial support. They could make us self-supporting, if we approach them correctly.

How can we relate Negroes not in churches or other organizations to the civil rights movement? We should work through the places Negroes frequent, for example, barber shops. Barber shops are channels of communication for the Negro community and barbers are key people who could spread the word about the civil rights movement. We also need a lot of person to person (eyeball to eyeball) contact. The issue of urban renewal can be used as a base for developing leadership within the community. SNCC has developed a system of block captains to work with neighborhood groups in tackling problems connected with urban renewal.

QUESTION PERIOD:

Comment: The Western Region hasn't tried hard enough to involve ministers in CORE. In the South more ministers are involved in CORE because they are asked to speak and participate at meetings. If we would invite them, we could get them to come.

Q. What was in the Phoenix leaflet that got out 2,000 people in 2 days? A. No special content; the important thing was that we took it to the people. We actively tried to reach them, and we contacted all the churches. The ministers preached about it and encouraged people to respond. The minister is the number one man in the Negro community. If we go ahead on projects without him, we will also have to work without many of the Negro people.

Q. Are we going to try to reach the so-called undesirables in the ghettos? We ought to go to them and explain the movement to them. A. Some say CORE is middle-class and afraid of the masses. But we need the masses. We have to let them know they are somebody, and not just by teaching them Negro history. They need to see that the freedom movement is their struggle and that it gives them dignity. Their role in the movement needs to be defined. We need not expect them to participate in non-violent actions, but there are plenty of things they can do. They could conduct their own street meetings better than representatives from CORE who don't "speak their language," We need to keep in close touch with the people, or we'll find them leading their own movement and leaving CORE behind.

Comment: Santa Monica CORE has a Community involvement committee. Members went house to house to explain CORE program and to talk with people about civil rights and to get their ideas on their interests and problems. Response has been very good.

The idea is that CORE is showing interest in helping people work on their mutual problems in their own neighborhoods. This was not a recruitment program for CORE.

Q. We shouldn't limit ourselves to just one group of people (Negro). There are other minority groups. How can we reach them?

A. Mexican-Americans don't like to be considerdd a minority. Japanese-Americans are in a better position than other minorities and are better accepted by the majority. The Indians see the white and black men struggling with each other over land that belongs to the red man.

Comment: CORE's most valuable contribution to the ghetto is to help them to organize themselves instead of trying to get them into CORE. The average Negro is not non-violent and feels quite bitter. We can't expect all segments of the community to join CORE but we can stimulate them to organize and develop their own leaders. Involving people in the civil rights movement is the important goal.

Comment: Los Angeles CORE sent an investigating team to Hopi Reservation and found serious discrimination and that Hopis lacked power over their own affairs. An Indian leader named Mad Bear has already led Indians in struggles for their rights. He wants CORE to support a national civil rights organization for Indians. Los Angeles is working on this.

Comment: Non-violence is a tactic, not an end in itself. Our goal is to eradicate discrimination. CORE should be the voice of the community, so it is essential to involve the community and get its support.

Comment: Unemployed members of minority groups are sources to tap for action projects. CORE and labor unions could work together to organize the unemployed.

URBAN RENEWAL AND HOUSING INITIATIVE

The following report was read:

We recommend further involvement in Urban Renewal, and to implement the points agreed upon at Fresno:

RESOLVED:

1. That during the period before the November election the Western Regional CORE chapters will continue their direct action projects.

2. That the Regional Office call a Regional Convention whose specific business will be the California Initiative and other anti-civil rights laws in other s states. This conference shall meet prior to 7 June.

3. That CORE coordinate its actions to defeat the Initiative with other state-wide groups, so long as this coordination does not interfere with local CORE autonomy and the first resolution of this report.

It was moved that we adopt the housing report as read. - Passed

It was moved and passed that there be a ten minute limit on discussion of report.

It was moved and passed that there be a division of motion.

Part One passed unanimously
Part Two passed unanimously
Part three passed unanimously

PUBLIC RELATIONS COMMITTEE

RESOLVED:

1. That we find out from National CORE if their press coverage clipping service is extensive enough - that it is covering even very small areas, and if so, if local chapters can be furnished with clippings about local activities that appear in other parts of the country. Or, if this cannot be done:

   That a Regional press clipping service be established for the purpose of keeping all chapters informed of press coverage in other areas, as outlined above.

PUBLIC RELATIONS, CONT'd.

2. That all chapters suggest to their membership and to all other area civil rights organizations that they hold for all such leaders a Public Relations Seminar Day for the purpose of learning the detailed workings of public relations and press coverage; the problems, outlook and operations of media, and for more clearly understanding and using the functions of public relations and publicity.

   This seminar should be planned and conducted as a joint effort between the local civil rights groups. Representation from all media should be asked to present their conception of good news, etc., supply; as well as internal Public relations leadership dealing with internal coordination and funneling of news, etc.

Moved and Passed that we adopt the p ublic relations report

GENERAL SESSION

Regional Projects suggested: Greyhound Bus Co. and the trucking industry

1. Greyhound: 30,000 drivers. Less than 20 are Negro. There are many qualified drivers in most major cities. The project would include demands in all job categories, i.e. drivers, secretaries, mechanics, cafeteria workers, etc.

2. Trucking Industry: Figures not complete yet, but there are very few Negro truck drivers.

   The planning of direct action would be easy against either industry.

3. Moved that the Regional CORE conference adopt the Greyhound Company as a Western Regional project. The project will be managed by the project management team to be appointed by the Western Regional Field Secretary, Chet Duncan.

   Motion carried with 5 abstaining votes from Seattle CORE.

4. Moved that The Regional CORE Conference adopt the trucking industry as a Western Regional project. This project will be managed by the project management team to be appointed by the Western Regional Field Secretary, Chet Duncan.

   Motion carried with five abstaining votes from Seattle CORE.

5. Dissention was voiced regarding the use of project management teams.

6. Chet Duncan was asked to look into the dairy situation throughout the region.

REPUBLICAN CONVENTION

1. Moved and passed that the coordination of the Republican Convention be left up to the Regional Field Secretary, Chet Duncan.

2. Moved that at the republican national convention, the Western Regional CORE Conference

   a. Make a serious attempt to force each potential candidate to take a stand on state fair housing legislation,

   b. Draft a civil rights plank to be presented to the republican party platform committee and make a serious effort to have it included within their platform,

   c. Do all in our power to keep the delegation from certain southern states from being seated and to replace these with delegations which have been selected by southern freedom votes. We are committed to a serious consideration of the use of civil disobedience in connection with this demand.

We hereby direct the national CORE office to begin negotiations with the Republican party in connection with this motion. We also direct that a copy of this motion be sent to those groups which are planning demonstrations in connection with the Democratic National Convention and that a serious attempt be made to establish liason with these groups.

MOVEd and passed: Seattle CORE Abstains (Note of explanation in in the last page of the minutes.

REPUBLICAN CONVENTION (Cont'd)

Moved that the conference select a committee to work out detailed tactical plans to implement the above motion and to draft these plans for ratification by the Western Regional CORE Chapters.

Motion passed - Seattle CORE abstains (Explanation on last page of minutes)

REGIONAL STRUCTURE COMMITTEE

A workshop was held and the project structure team was chosen: Members are:

Gene Novak, Oakland
Bill Bradley - San Francisco
James Harris - Oroville
Hank Organ - Mid Peninsula
Art Silvers, - Los Angeles
Hal Brown - San Diego
Ed Singler - Seattle
Dick Rapp - Denver (Regional Rep)
Wilfred Ussery - San Francisco, Nat 2 VP
Wes Sweet, San Jose, Legal Council
Chet duncan - Regional Field Secretary

Before the workshop was started it was: [illegible]

Moved and passed that the Regional Conference be the project selection device for the western region. (Explanation - That Regional projects be selected from the floor of the conference, and not from other sources.)

Moved and passed that prior to the presentation on the floor that the chairman or his duly elected representative of each chapter meet and discuss all proposed projects and bring to the floor of the conference reccomendations on these projects.

Wilfred Ussery, chairman of the committee is to have established serious communications with the other committee members.

REPORT FROM NATIONAL STAFF CONFERENCE, DURHAM, N.C.

1. SUMMER TASK FORCE: The training center will be in Berea, Kentucky, starting June 15. It is financed in part by the National Council of Churches. The training will take 4 days with 3 meetings each day.

Louisiana - Voter registration will be carried on again this summer. The field staff in Louisiana proposed the idea of seating a delegation to the State (Louisiana) Democratic Convention. If this fails they will send a delegation to the National Democratic Convention.

Southern Office - There is now a branch of the National CORE office, located at 221 Dryades, New Orleans, Louisiana. Richard Haley is the director. This is not a Regional Office, but a branch of the National Office.

Mississippi - This project will be similar to the Louisiana project, but with more dramatic action at the Democratic Convention. They will challenge the platform, will demand that their delegation be seated or that the "white" delegation be integrated. Mrs. Ella Baker will coordinate this in New York.

Victoria Gray is running for Senator in Mississippi. There are 20,000 registered Negro voters in Mississippi, and COFO will challenge the outcome of the election if Mrs. Gray is not elected. Mrs. Gray is Negro, and we can have her here in the Region for fund raising events if we finance her trip. If you are interested contact CORE Field Secretary, Dave Dennis, 1017 Lynch Street, Jackson, Mississippi.

Northern Project - Chicago has been selected as the target city. There will be rent strikes; projects will be carried out in employment, housing, education and community involvement. Gene Tourner, CORE field secretary will conduct the training sessions.

2. NATIONAL CONVENTION - Will be held at Kansas State University, Manhatten, Kansas, July 2 through July 5. The two top items will be the basic structure of the CORE National Action Council and the Brookly, Bronx and New York problem.

3. BROOKLYN CORE - The problem goes back about a year and a half, when, during the summer several members of the chapter were arrested and sentenced. Brooklyn objected to the ten day sentence imposed on one female defendant. They violated CORE Rule for Action No. 6, (among others) which states "he will meet the anger of any individual or group in the spirit of good will and creative reconciliation; he will submit to assault and will not retaliate in kind either by act or word. The National CORE office states that the Chapter rose in the Courtroom, chanting obscenities against the Judge and passed out literature containing words retaliating against the Judge.

BROOKLYN, Cont'td:

The New York area chapters and the National Office of CORE held two meetings together regarding the World Fair. The topic was not discussed at the NAC Meeting, but it had been recommended through NAC and the National Director that it be a National project. James Farmer made an announcement that it would indeed be a National project.

The stall-in proposal by Brooklyn, Bronx and New York CORE chapters was recommended to the NAC and was adopted by the NAC. Then at the next meeting of the NAC it was stated that it was a good project, but was ill timed, so the project of stall-ins was voted down and the previous decision was reversed.

Brooklyn was then given a directive not to issue any press releases without permission of the National Office because it was a National project. Twenty four hours later Brooklyn CORE held a press conference without National permission, and they were suspended.

National has stated that CORE grievances should be kept within CORE and should not be given to the press.

No representatives from the Brooklyn chapter were present at the NAC meeting when the above was discussed.

The question was asked, What is the Western Region opinion of the stall-in tactic if an adequate program accompanies the tactic.

Apparently Brooklyn had no program to go along with the stall-in. They had not negotiated with Mayor Wagner or the World Fair Commission. They had action with no demands.

There will be a special meeting of the NAC May 1, 2 and 3, to further discuss the problem.

It was moved and passed that the Western Regional CORE conference request National CORE to lift the suspension of Brooklyn CORE until all the facts are known.

The intention of the maker of the motion was that a recommendation should come from this conference to National CORE.

When this motion was to be voted on the chapters requested that an individual chapter poll be taken. Following are the results:

CHAPTER	FOR	AGAINST	CHAPTER	FOR	AGAINST
Bakersfield	0	5	Richmond	1	4
Berkeley	0	5	Sacramento	5	0
Berkeley Campus	2	3	San Diego	0	5
Los Angeles	4	1	San Fernando Valley	0	5
Los Angeles State	5	0	San Francisco	5	0
Marin County	5	0	Santa Clara Valley	5	0
Mid Penninsula	5	0	Santa Monica Bay Area	5	0
Oakland	0	5	Seattle	1	4
Occidental	5	0	Stockton	0	5
Pasadena	1	4	Tri Cities	5	0
Phoenix	5	0	UCLA	0	5
Pomona	5	0	TOTAL	64	51

The following motion was in three parts and was voted as a division of motion:

Part 1. Moved that this body endorse the tactic of stall-ins in principle.

Passed 38 to 10 with 8 abstentions
One Seattle CORE member abstains because she feels the conference was not being run democratically.
Santa Clara Valley abstains because there is not sufficient information to vote intelligently.

Part 2. The reason given by National regarding timing was illegitimate.

Passed 25 to 10 with two recorded abstention
One Seattle CORE member abstains because there is not sufficient information to vote intelligently
Santa Clara Valley abstains for same reason

Part 3. Demand of National comprehensive information on stall-ins.

Passed - One Seattle CORE member abstention because of not sufficient info.

CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE

or

Why Are We?

This conference made obvious the known fact that although WE are the Western arm of CORE, The Congress of Racial Equality, an organization committed to the goal of erasing the color line through direct, non-violent action, we are not yet ready for the direct, non-violent action known as civil disobedience.

Wrong !!!

Read what we had to say.

First the comment was made that in the South laws are violated because there is on. set of laws for whites, another set for Negroes.

SAN DIEGO - Does the end justify the means? Each person has to decide that for him self. Civil disobedience is equally important as investigation and negotiations. Civil disobedience is just another means. This does not mean that you have to be for every kind of civil disobedience, just be for civil disobedience in general.

PHOENIX - It is a good means to show the public what is happening. It proves to the public that we are willing to die. We mean what we say.

LOS ANGELES - We are a direct action, non-violent group. Civil disobedience is effective. Sometimes lesser means are not. Non-violence is a philosophy, not just a means to an end. We're moving to a new phase of end-orientated movement. New words, etc. We don't know where we are. We're moving into areas where there is no more one to one relation to our adversary. We are dealing with bigger entities like cities, etc. We should discuss whether we are a philosophic movement or whether we use this as a tactic.

SEATTLE - Pressure upon groups that are just beginning civil disobedience exists. Some chapters are made of students, other chapters of older people. Seattle CORE wanted to go against the initiative in spite of great pressure by their City Fathers and so called leaders. Civil disobedience will alienate only those who are already against us. We need suggestions from other groups.

SANTA MONICA BAY AREA - Difference exists between the north and the south because of different issues. We cannot expect mass recruitment of the public right away. Do we need the public to join CORE or just as supporters? We need education in every chapter on what is non-violence. It does not have to destructive action. We need this creative tension. We need to see if civil disobedience is relevant. Is it effective? Is it philosophical? Why are we here? Where are we going?

SAN FRANCISCO - CORE is designed to eliminate segregation. We need to use the most effective non-distructive means. We are criticized most when we're most effective Civil disobedience works. That's why we are criticized regardless of why segregation exists. We must eliminate this. To do this we have to make the public aware and make them do something. We are too concerned with criticism, external and internal. Even though the powers that be criticize, civil disobedience causes them to act. Use it as a last means. It pushes people off the fence. In 1964 we're goint to establish that either you are in the movement or you oppose it. There are gradations of committment, but be in it. Then we will get more support from those who are for us. We are willing to risk a few lives to force those people to stop risking many lives. An active member must be fully committed.

SANTA CLARA VALLEY - Is there a tendency to be too anxious? Will we use it too loosely? Is it a negative approach? We should use Nationalism as an approach.

SAN FRANCISCO - Civil disobedience is the one form of action that shows the city fathers that we mean what we say. There's a law being proposed in California to outlaw civil disobedience.

SANTA MONICA BAY AREA - Civil disobedience must be directly connected with the issue

BERKELEY - CORE started out as a passivist group. There is a synthesis developing between civil disobedience and Ghandiism. Be respectable looking so you don't have to worry about that phase of how you look to the community. How do we go into it without money?

CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE Cont'd.

SEATTLE - Non-violence is not for respectability, but to give the minorities Christian dignity. With non-violence you approach the community with dignity; if you raise your fist, you don't.

SAN FRANCISCO - New York CORE said their city has a problem and civil disobedience is the only way we can fight it. In otherwords, we have to get a job done. Freedom Now is a farce unless we talk about total engagement with total power structure, not with individuals.

LOS ANGELES - We seem to be moving up a scale. Are we trying to become powerful so we can then be violent? Where do we go?

RICHMOND - Chapters must be informed of technical results. How do we get out of jail? What about bail money? Can Regional or National help us? Can they give money?

WILL USSERY - National can't give money. You have to get legal information from your own city. (Typist's note - Also remember that Wes Sweet in San Jose is our legal counsel and will be very happy to help you.)

SAN DIEGO - Where do you get funds? If necessary do it without bail money. If you can involve the community enough someone will come forth with the money.

MID PENINSULA - You don't have to be committed to the philosophy of non-violence. Use it as a tactic. We're hitting institutions, not individuals. We have to use harder force. We have to convince the community to be non-violent. If we don't make non-violence work, there'll be violence. IF YOU'RE NOT WILLING TO GO TO JAIL YOU'D BETTER QUESTION YOUR OWN COMMITTMENT TO THE MOVEMENT.

BERKELEY - You have to make the enemy see that you have more power than he has. We have no other choice but to do it through non-violence.

PHOENIX - Find someone who doesn't have as many responsibilities so they can go to jail. Others can picket.

SEATTLE - Where did chapters who have gone to jail get the money?

SAN FRANCISCO - What committment should a person make before he becomes a CORE member? If members are committed to freedom, you'll find people who will go to jail. IF YOU GO INTO CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE, let's go all the way.

BERKELEY - I question the terms war and revolution. Maybe we should use the word, "crusade", the slogan "Right makes might". Civil disobedience can be non-violent.

SAN FRANCISCO - Our revolution, as opposed to the White Man's revolution, is non-violent.

NON MEMBER - We demand respect. We must have it. We're tired of being used.

SEATTLE - Philosophy of non-violence is important. It should not be just a tactic. Results, considered by themselves is expedient, but dangerous. The end results do not necessarily justify the means. Are we heading for action for action's sake? Or are we basing our actions on our demands?

WILL USSERY - 1. We need unified action between chapters. 2. We have to fight the whole power structure, not individuals. 3. You can't just deal with discrimination per se. We have to program better employment, etc. 4. We have to tie our programs in housing, education and employment together. No one item stands alone. 5. Each chapter must be totally committed to total program.

BERKELEY CAMPUS - We are in a war. You shouldn't have to be told you'll be out of jail tomorrow. We should do some soul searching. We want Freedom. Ask not what the Movement can do for you but what you can do for the movement.

SAN FRANCISCO - We shouldn't have to discuss violence vs. non-violence. CORE is non-violent. Let's hear some methods.

BERKELEY CAMPUS - Bail bondsmen will deal with CORE. You have to know how to get your chapter moving. Look for novel forms. Ha a conference on non-violence. We have to make it inconvenient for people to discriminate by hitting their pocket and in other ways.

SAN FRANCISCO - Tactics - Drama is only one aspect of civil disobedience. The other is muscle. We didn't shop-in for drama. We shopped-in so others couldn't shop there. This made the town act. You must determine which technique will

CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE Cont'd.

most devour your enemy. You must find out how do you apply total heat.

BERKELEY CAMPUS - Non-violence is practical and realistic. We want to make the whole country non-violent to have a better country all around.

SANTA MONICA BAY AREA - We have to change the entire social structure to have a better country all around. We want a country of dignity.

SEATTLE - I'm black. If I lose my job I don't get another. I can't go to jail and I shouldn't be criticized for that. It's easy for the white man to go to jail. This is why you don't get more Negroes to join. We have to convince the minority person that CORE can do the job before they'll join us. The more Negro adults on the line, the more we scare the powers that be. Let's be realistic, not oratorical.

SAN FRANCISCO - We are breaking good laws, in the North. How do we convince others that they have to do this. We have to find out how to convince the community that people are being twisted out of shape by discrimination. That's why we're here.

LOS ANGELES STATE COLLEGE - We need community support. We have to teach people to care enough to work together to end discrimination, and forget their petty bickering

OAKLAND - Don't overkill. Don't use civil disobedience unless picketing won't work Gear it to your action. Should we remain non-violent eg, should we link arms when arrested?

BERKELEY - What role will the federal government play?

WILL USSERY - Total program goes against the federal government. We don't use them as conciliators.

MID PENINSULA - We are trying to bring about social change, not just economic change.

SAN FRANCISCO - Maybe we should keep our tactics secret from the public. This is our business. Each chapter has to decide their own tactics. You can accept the philosophy of non-violence without actually being non-violent. You live, eat and sleep this. In other words, if I'm in bed sleeping and someone kicks me I'll roll over and turn the other cheek. Follow the CORE rules.

WILL USSERY - Please do.

There the session ended.

that's it!

(Typist's note -- and thank you for being in CORE.)

CORE - Congress of Racial Equality
2085 Sutter Street
San Francisco 5, California
JO 7-3430

April 29, 1964

MEMORANDUM TO: Western Regional CORE Chapters

FROM: Western Regional Field Secretary

SUBJECT: Selection of Republican National Convention Projects Team

The following people have been selected as members of the subject Projects Team:

1. Harold Brown, San Diego CORE
2. chet duncan - Western Regional Field Secretary
3. Aubrey Hammond - Sacramento CORE
4. James Harris - Oroville CORE
5. Robert Jackson - Oakland CORE
6. Sandy Lake - Santa Monica 'Bay Area CORE
7. Faye Morton - Santa Clara Valley CORE
8. Mary Lu Murphy - San Francisco CORE
9. Arthur Silvers - Los Angeles CORE
10. Jessie Theard - Stockton CORE
11. Will Ussery - 2d Vice Chairman National CORE
12. Ed Vickery - Mid-Peninsula CORE

This group is to meet in Fresno, California the weekend of May 16th and 17th. Place of meeting will be announced at a later date. Purpose of meeting - to outline completely all methods of negotiations, direct action, etc., in connection with this FIRST Regional project.

Chapters are requested to pay necessary travel expenses of those members who will represent your chapter at this meeting.

Project Teams for Greyhound and the major trucking industries (if adopted by the Region) will be announced at a later date. It is requested that all chapters inform this office as soon as possible when their chapters have voted for or against these two proposed Regional Project.

thats it!

chet duncan
Western Regional Field Secretary
Congress of Racial Equality

CORE chapters

CONGRESS OF RACIAL EQUALITY CORE

SEATTLE CORE
P.O. BOX 299
SEATTLE 11, WASHINGTON
EA 5 - 5496

AUGUST 26, 1964

DEAR FRIENDS OF CIVIL RIGHTS:

YOU MAY REMEMBER RECENT STATEMENTS BY SOME OF OUR CITY'S LEADERS THAT JOBS ARE THE KEY TO SOLVING RACIAL PROBLEMS IN SEATTLE. THIS LETTER IS TO ANNOUNCE FORMATION OF THE DRIVE FOR EQUAL EMPLOYMENT IN DOWNTOWN SEATTLE - DEEDS - TO ACHIEVE A FAIR SHARE IN DOWNTOWN EMPLOYMENT FOR MINORITY WORKERS AS SPEEDILY AS POSSIBLE.

SEATTLE CORE INITIATED DEEDS EARLIER THIS SUMMER. THE PROGRAM NOW HAS THE ACTIVE PARTICIPATION OF THE CENTRAL AREA COORDINATING COMMITTEE FOR CIVIL RIGHTS, INCLUDING REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF COLORED PEOPLE, THE URBAN LEAGUE, THE CENTRAL AREA COMMUNITY COUNCIL, AND OTHER CHURCH AND CIVIC GROUPS.

IN KEEPING WITH CORE POLICY ON ALL ACTION PROJECTS, DEEDS IS DEVELOPING THROUGH REGULAR PHASES. STEP ONE, INVESTIGATION, HAS BEEN CARRIED OUT WITH INTENSIVE RESEARCH WHICH HAS PRODUCED DRAMATIC EVIDENCE OF JOB DISCRIMINATION DOWNTOWN.

STEP TWO, NEGOTIATION, HAS BEEN INITIATED BY INVITING REPRESENTATIVES FROM ALL LEVELS OF GOVERNMENT AND THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY TO MEET ON AUGUST 3RD WITH LEADERS OF THE GROUPS NOTED ABOVE, TO DISCUSS IMPLEMENTATION OF OUR PLAN FOR INTEGRATING DOWNTOWN EMPLOYMENT. THE THIRD STEP OF APPEALING FOR BROAD PUBLIC SUPPORT IS ALSO WELL UNDERWAY, WITH LETTERS LIKE THIS ONE GOING OUT TO ORGANIZATIONS AND INDIVIDUALS, AS WELL AS COMMUNITY MEETINGS AND DISCUSSIONS TO SPREAD THE NEWS OF DEEDS.

WHILE EVERYONE WORKING FOR DEEDS HOPES WE WILL SUCCEED WITHOUT DIRECT ACTION, CAREFUL AND EXTENSIVE PLANS HAVE BEEN LAID IN CASE NEGOTIATIONS SHOULD FAIL. WE ARE ASKING ALL BELIEVERS IN RACIAL JUSTICE TO BE READY TO TAKE PART IN PEACEFUL, NON-VIOLENT DIRECT ACTION ON A SCALE HITHERTO UNKNOWN IN SEATTLE.

IN DOWNTOWN SEATTLE THERE ARE 63,000 JOBS, BUT ONLY 2,200 NEGROES WORK IN THIS AREA. THIS MEANS THAT ALTHOUGH NEGROES MAKE UP ABOUT 5% OF THE SEATTLE POPULATION, THEY HOLD ONLY 3½% OF THE DOWNTOWN JOBS. FURTHERMORE, AN EXTREMELY DISPROPORTIONATE NUMBER OF THE NEGROES WHO DO WORK DOWNTOWN HAVE MENIAL JOBS, SCANT HOPE OF PROMOTION, AND LITTLE OR NO CONTACT WITH THE PUBLIC. NEGRO UNEMPLOYMENT IS TWICE AS HIGH AS THAT OF THE GENERAL SEATTLE POPULATION.

LESS THAN 2% OF THE DOWNTOWN RETAIL JOBS ARE HELD BY NEGROES, AND ONLY ABOUT ONE THIRD OF THIS SMALL NUMBER ARE IN SALES POSITIONS. NEGROES MAKE UP LESS THAN 3% OF THE GENERAL OFFICE WORKERS PRIVATELY EMPLOYED IN THE AREA.

A HIGHLY DISPROPORTIONATE NUMBER OF DOWNTOWN SEATTLE'S NEGRO EMPLOYEES WORK IN HOTELS, AND VIRTUALLY EVERY ONE OF THEM IS EMPLOYED AS A MAID, JANITOR, SHOESHINE MAN, OR IN SOME SIMILAR MENIAL CAPACITY. IN AN EXTENSIVE SURVEY OF RESTAURANTS, NO NEGRO WAS FOUND IN ANY MANAGERIAL OR HIGHER SERVICE POSITION, BUT EVERY JANITOR FOUND WAS A NEGRO. MEMBERS OF THIS MINORITY GROUP MAKE UP ONLY ABOUT 1% OF ALL PERSONNEL IN BANKS, INSURANCE COMPANIES, REAL ESTATE AGENCIES, AND OTHER FINANCIAL CONCERNS.

THE EMPLOYMENT RECORD OF STATE, COUNTY, AND CITY GOVERNMENTS WAS DISHEARTENING EVEN TO HARDENED CORE INVESTIGATORS. NEGROES MAKE UP ONLY 3% OF ALL STATE OR LOCAL GOVERNMENT POSITIONS DOWNTOWN. NEGROES ARE EMPLOYED IN LESS THAN 1% OF ALL POSITIONS IN THE CITY CLERICAL FORCE AND IN THE POLICE AND FIRE DEPARTMENTS. THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT IS THE LARGEST EMPLOYER OF MINORITY PERSONNEL IN DOWNTOWN SEATTLE; YET MOST OF THESE EMPLOYEES ARE CONCENTRATED IN A FEW DEPARTMENTS, AND A GREAT MANY ARE CONFINED TO THE LOWER LEVEL POSITIONS.

THE INJUSTICE REPRESENTED BY ALL THESE FACTS BECOMES CLEARER WHEN ONE CONSIDERS THAT NEGROES MAKE UP AS MUCH AS 30% OF ALL CUSTOMERS PATRONIZING SOME MAJOR BUSINESSES DOWNTOWN, THAT THEY SPEND AT LEAST $12 MILLION DOWNTOWN EACH YEAR, AND THAT THEY ACCOUNT FOR ABOUT 5% OF THE ENTIRE PURCHASING POWER EXERCISED IN DOWNTOWN RETAIL TRADE.

DOWNTOWN SEATTLE IS QUITE CAPABLE OF SPEEDILY ABOLISHING THE INJUSTICE WHICH THESE FIGURES REVEAL. EVEN ASIDE FROM REGULAR TURNOVER IN JOBS, THE CENTRAL ASSOCIATION BOASTS THAT 400 - 600 NEW JOBS HAVE BEEN CREATED ANNUALLY IN THE LAST THREE YEARS, FORECASTS A STILL HIGHER LEVEL FOR 1964, AND PREDICTS 1,000 NEW POSITIONS PER YEAR IN THE NEAR FUTURE. REMEMBER, THESE ARE NEW JOBS AND DO NOT EVEN ACCOUNT FOR TURNOVER IN THE PRESENT WORK FORCE OF 63,000 EMPLOYEES.

THE FOLLOWING MINIMAL GOALS HAVE BEEN SUGGESTED BY DEEDS AS THE FIRST NECESSARY MEASURES IN A LONG-TERM EFFORT TO ERADICATE JOB DISCRIMINATION DOWNTOWN:

300 NEW JOBS FOR NEGROES IN 30 DAYS
400 ADDITIONAL JOBS IN 90 DAYS
500 MORE JOBS IN 6 MONTHS
FOR A TOTAL OF 1,200 NEW JOBS FOR NEGROES BY 1 FEBRUARY 1965.

THE PLAN OF DEEDS PRESENTED TO THOSE RESPONSIBLE FOR DOWNTOWN HIRING ALSO INCLUDES CAREFULLY WORKED OUT SUGGESTIONS FOR THE PLACEMENT OF NEGROES IN A VARIETY OF JOB CATEGORIES AND AT DIFFERENT LEVELS. THE PLAN FURTHER SPECIFIES NUMEROUS MEASURES WHICH CAN BE TAKEN BY EMPLOYERS TO INSURE THAT QUALIFIED NEGRO APPLICANTS WILL BE FOUND AND THAT THE TALENTS OF THE MINORITY COMMUNITY WILL BE UTILIZED WITH BOTH JUSTICE AND ECONOMY FOR ALL CONCERNED. DEEDS ASKS THAT NO PERSON PRESENTLY EMPLOYED LOSE HIS JOB. THROUGH TURNOVER AND THE CREATION OF NEW JOBS MINORITY PERSONS SHOULD BE GIVEN EQUALITY OF OPPORTUNITY.

NOW THAT YOU HAVE BEEN ALERTED TO THE DISEASE WHICH IS FESTERING AT THE HEART OF SEATTLE AND LEARNED OF THE CURE PUT FORWARD BY DEEDS, WE ARE SURE YOU WILL APPRECIATE THE JUSTICE OF THIS CAUSE AND ITS IMPORTANCE TO THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL WELL BEING OF OUR CITY. HERE ARE SOME WAYS YOU CAN CONTRIBUTE TO DEEDS:

1. INFORM AND INVOLVE YOUR FRIENDS AND MEMBERS OF ANY ORGANIZATIONS YOU BELONG TO ABOUT THIS PROGRAM. SEATTLE CORE HAS A PROGRAM OF NEIGHBORHOOD MEETINGS EXPLAINING THIS PROJECT. REGULAR REPORTS ARE ALSO MADE AT CORE MEETINGS - 8 P.M., 2ND TUESDAY AND 4TH THURSDAY OF EACH MONTH, EAST SIDE YWCA, 29TH AND E. CHERRY.

2. ENCOURAGE MINORITY MEMBERS WHO NEED JOBS TO APPLY FOR EMPLOYMENT DOWNTOWN NOW.

3. DO EVERYTHING IN YOUR POWER TO PROMOTE NOT ONLY FAIR HIRING PRACTICES BUT ALSO EFFECTIVE TRAINING AND ADEQUATE ADVANCEMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR MINORITY WORKERS.

4. BE READY TO ENGAGE IN NON-VIOLENT DIRECT ACTION IF NEGOTIATIONS SHOULD BREAK DOWN.

5. ADD YOUR ORGANIZATION TO THE GROWING LIST OF SPONSORING AND PARTICIPATING GROUPS.

ALL SEATTLE HAS INDURED INEQUALITY AND DISCRIMINATION FOR TOO LONG. WE MUST ALL ACT TO END IT NOW THROUGH DEEDS.

SINCERELY,

Harold "Jr." Martin

TIM MARTIN, CHAIRMAN
SEATTLE CORE

file with Seattle correspondence — Western Region

CURRENT ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE OF THE CONGRESS OF RACIAL EQUALITY (CORE).

The National Convention: Highest governing body of CORE; sole power over National Constitution.

National Action Council: Officers, 5 Regional Vice-Chairmen and Representatives -- elected at National Convention.

*The Regional Convention: Highest governing body of a Region.

*Regional Action Council: National officers in a Region; all District Chairmen and Representatives, and the Director or Senior Field Secretary of the Region. The nationally elected Regional Vice-Chr. is the head of RAC. (District chairman and representatives elected by District caucus at the Regional Convention.)

*District Action Council: (To be structured within each district.)

Local Chapters: Remain atonemous with only those limitations set by National and/or Regional Constitutions and as long as operate within non-violent philosophy and techniques and within prescribed"CORE RULES for ACTION".

* newly created.

The Western Region (1 of the 5 National Regions) covers the 11 western states, plus Alaska and Hawaii.

The 4 Districts of the Western Region and their chairman and representatives as follows:

District No. 1: Southern California and Hawaii. (In California it is the counties south of and including San Louis Obispo, Kern and Inyo.)
Chairman: Robert L. (Bob) Bailey, San Bernadino Chapter (resides VanNuys.)

Representatives: Cleveland Wallace, Los Angeles; Ambrose Brodus, San Diego; Fred Patten, California State College at Los Angeles; Walter Kaufmann, Bakersfield, and John Albert, Pomona Valley.

District No. 2: Northern California (remaining counties.).
Chairman: Douglas Quiett, Marin.

Representatives: Julian Fredericks, Santa Clara Valley; Jack Owens, Mid-Peninsula; Savannah Bello, Richmond; Jack Weinberg, University of California at Berkeley, and Vera Dennard, Stockton.

District No. 3: Oregon, Washington and Alaska.
Chr. and reps. to be selected ...contact Walter Hundley, Seattle.

District No. 4: Idaho, Montana, Wyoming, Nevada, Utah, Colorado, Arizona & New Mexico.
Chairman: James Williams, Phoenix.

Representatives: L.C.Alexander, Tucson; Purnell Steen, Boulder Campus; Bob McNamara, Phoenix; Cecil Wright, Denver, and Marilyn Hyslop, Greeley Campus.

# # # # # #

ADD. Information: Approximately 150 delegates attended this Regional Convention.

IMPORTANT NOTE: The newly created Regional Action Council (RAC) will hold its first strategy meeting on 12 and 13 December, 1964, in San Francisco.

For any further information, which we shall be glad to supply please write or Telephone:

Miss Shirley Mesher,
Public Relations Director,
Western States Region,
Congress of Racial Equality
2085 Sutter Street,
San Francisco, California 94115 JOrdan 7-3430 or 7-3431
(We have a 24 hour answering service.)

NEW DIRECTIONS AND EMPHASIS OF COMPREHENSIVE PROGRAM.

1. EMPLOYMENT ... CORE is concerned not only about obtaining jobs for minorities and ending racial consideration as a barrier to employment -- but also in seeing that the government, business and other private interests really begin to tackle and resolve the tremendous problem of unemployment...for all! The problem is currently more acute for the minorities, since present job displacement is primarily among the semi and non skilled classifications. However, with rapidly increasing mechanization and automation, it will very soon become critical everywhere. CORE is interested in extensive training programs. While we applaud training available under the new War on Poverty program, it is only a small token measure compared to the need. There must also be depth reseach and analysis of future employment patterns and needs, so that people will not be trained for jobs that will be non-existant 5 years from now. The latter also applies to a massive re-training program.

2. EDUCATION ... CORE is not only pressing for desegregated schools, but also for great improvement in general educational standards ... and in various types of education that realistically deals with the drop-out problem and prepares students - each according to their ability - for the 'commercial world' and foor the 'human world'. We further desire greater efforts and programs in remedial and compensatory education, which would redress the affects of cultural and economic lag that afflicts much of the country -- not only minorities.

3. URBAN RE-DEVELOPMENT ... CORE does not oppose Urban Re-newal per se, but only high personal profit schemes that masquerade under this banner -- gaining 'condemned' property cheaply and then building high-cost units which do not meet the need nor the promise. CORE also opposes unnecessary condemnation, under the same guise, of housing units that only really need improvement. And more we are against the unnecessary and inhuman displacement of people and their culture and way of life, with nothing but cold, ugly plaster and a vast void as the promised replacement. Nor are we interested in seeing new ghettos established -- nor 'Negro removal' -- nor the creation of future slums. Surely the creative genius and the natural resourse of America can produce something better and more honest to solve the Urban plight.

4. Housing ... The answer in housing is not just to de-segregate, but also to encourage more good low-cost living units -- both for sale and rent. There continues to be a great amount of construction (of houses, apartments etc.), but most are priced far above the average means.

(more)

NEW DIRECTIONS cont'd.

5. POLITICAL AND LEGISLATIVE ACTION ... During this past election, there was obviously an awakening among the minority people - particularly among the Negro population - to the importance of their participation in voting on and their concern about candidates and issues. On the average, a larger percentage of the registered voters in the minority communities went to the polls to express their choice than those in the general population. Certainly, government will now have to reckon with a new political force that means to be heard. CORE will continue and expand its intensive voter registration and political education both in the South and North. CORE, while remaining apolitical and non-partisan, will now fully enter the political pressure arena with a sincere effort to represent the interests of the 'grass roots' of the minorities in all areas that affect the progress of civil rights. The latter will apply both to candidates and legislative measures -- as well as the enforcement (fairly, equally and with justice) of all Constitutional rights.

6. COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT ... CORE will start immediately to create programs and activities and services that will meet the interest and needs of the minority communities. Such programs will emphasize self-help projects and the communities will be encouraged to form their own protest and improvement associations. Freedom Houses were fully endorced by the Regional Convention and CORE Chapters were encouraged to establish such centers within the minority communities. (They already exist in Oakland and Denver and several chapters are in the process of establishing them.) The northern Freedom Houses operate much like the CORE Community Centers in the South ... providing, among other things, remedial education help, compensatory programs, adult education and training, political and legal information, voter registration and recreational activity.

7. PROPOSITION 14 ... While this only involves California directly, there is a great deal of expressed interest about this bill in all parts of the country. CORE will continue to fight this California state amendment as being illegal and un-Constitutional. We will also insist, despite the current and tremendous pressures to the reverse, that the government stick to the 'letter-of-the-law' and deny all FHA loans and Urban Re-newal funds, since no one can now guarantee the necessary provision of non-discriminatory clauses. (Please see last paragraph, page 2 , and the rest of the enclosed Position Paper on this matter.)

# # # # # #

(more)

REGULAR MEETING NOTICE

BY VOTE OF THE MEMBERSHIP THERE WILL BE NO SECOND MEETING IN DECEMBER.

BUT REMEMBER - TUESDAY - JANUARY 12, 1965, 8 PM, E. CHERRY YWCA

STEAM BUILDS UP UNDER THE DEEDS PROJECT.

SEATTLE CORE'S DEEDS PROJECT IS REALLY ROLLING UNDER A FULL HEAD OF STEAM. THE PICKETS, CAR-TOP PARADES, LEAFLETING, NEIGHBORHOOD MEETINGS, SIGNS, OCCUPANT MAILING, ETC., ARE ALL STARTING TO DEVELOPE INTO A REAL EFFECTIVE BOYCOTT OF THE DOWNTOWN AREA. AND YOUR SUPPORT, BY NOT SHOPPING DOWNTOWN, IS BEGINNING TO BRING ABOUT SOME TANGIBLE RESULTS. THE MAILING OF 10,000 LETTERS AND PLEDGE CARDS IN THE CENTRAL AREA HIT THIS COMMUNITY WITH AN IMPACT BEYOND OUR WILDEST IMAGINATION. PLEDGE CARDS HAVE COME BACK IN LARGE QUANTITIES AND WITH ALL SORTS OF ENCOURAGEMENT. MANY PEOPLE WANT MORE INFORMATION ON CORE, WANT TO BECOME MEMBERS, AND WANT TO SEND MONEY. ALSO IMPORTANT, THEY PLEDGE NOT TO SHOP DOWNTOWN.

MANY BUSINESSES ARE CALLING FOR AID IN FINDING EMPLOYEES. THE CITY IS ACTIVELY RECRUITING NON-WHITE PERSONNEL FOR THE POLICE AND FIRE DEPARTMENTS. THE EQUAL OPPORTUNITY CENTER IS BEING ADVERTIZED REGULARLY ON TV. WE COULD GO ON BUT THESE TYPES OF DEVELOPMENTS REFLECT THE IMPACT OF THE BOYCOTT. BUSINESS IS BAD DOWNTOWN. ASK ANYONE WHO WORKS THERE. WE HAVE. HAVE YOU NOTICED THE LACK OF THE USUAL WEEKLY REPORTS OF HOW MUCH BETTER BUSINESS IS THIS YEAR THAN LAST. WE NOTICED. BUT IT WILL GET TOUGHER TO MAINTAIN THE BOYCOTT. SALES, COME-ON GIMMICKS, ETC. WILL SURELY INCREASE. NOW IS THE TIME FOR ALL OF US TO REALLY LET THE POWER STRUCTURE KNOW THAT WE ARE SERIOUS ABOUT OUR DEMANDS FOR EQUAL EMPLOYMENT FOR ALL AMERICANS. YOU CAN DO YOUR PART BY NOT SHOPPING DOWNTOWN. AND THAT MEANS MOVIES, RESTAURANTS, NIGHTCLUBS, ALL BUSINESSES. GO SHOPPING IN AN OUTLYING AREA. YOU MAY DEAL WITH THE SAME COMPANY THAT ALSO HAS A STORE DOWNTOWN BUT REMEMBER, EACH STORE HAS TO MAKE ITS OWN PROFIT. THEY ARE NOT MAKING IT DOWNTOWN. LETS KEEP IT THAT WAY UNTIL WE OVERCOME. JOIN US FOR FREEDOM.

NEW DIRECTION FOR DEEDS ?

PLEASE BE SURE TO ATTEND THE REGULAR MEETING ON TUESDAY, JAN. 12, AT THE E. CHERRY Y. THE FIRST ITEM ON THE AGENDA WILL BE EVALUATION OF THE DEEDS PROJECT AND A NEGOTIATORS REPORT. BE SURE TO COME.

OFFICE PLEDGE DRIVE

SINCE WE VOTED TO HAVE AN OFFICE WE MUST NOW PREPARE TO SUPPORT THAT OFFICE FINANCIALLY. THE COMMITTEE SET UP TO WORK ON THIS PROJECT HAS DECIDED TO ASK ALL OF CORE'S SUPPORTERS TO HELP.

DETAILED INFORMATION WILL BE LISTED IN THE NEXT CORELATOR.

DON'T SPEND ALL YOUR MONEY ON CHRISTMAS GIFTS - OR CONSIDERING GIVING ONE TO CORE.

CORE CHRISTMAS PARTY

ALL ACTIVE MEMBERS AND FRIENDS ARE REMINDED THAT THE ANNUAL CORE CHRISTMAS PARTY WILL BE HELD ON SATURDAY, DECEMBER 19TH AT 9 P.M. AT THE JOHN FIEDLER'S. (135 MADRONA PL. E.) THE CHARGE IS $2.00 PER PERSON WHICH COVERS ALL REFRESHMENTS BOTH LIQUID AND SOLID. RESERVATIONS CAN BE OBTAINED BY CONTACTING ERNIE ROGERS, EA 3-8032, DIANNE BISSET, EM 28783, SHARON FISCHER, ME 3-4716 AND BARB DAVIS. LAST YEARS PARTY WAS LOTS OF FUN AND THIS YEARS LOOKS LIKE IT WILL BE A REAL SWINGER. MAKING A RESERVATION IS NECESSARY SO THAT THE GOODIES WILL HOLD OUT. PLEASE CALL A RESERVE A PLACE FOR YOURSELF.

THE CASE OF THE MISSING ORDER - OR WHAT'S CHRISTMAS WITHOUT A CARD.

WELLLL - NATIONAL CORE DID IT AGAIN DESPITE A LETTER, A TELEGRAM, AND 4 LONG DISTANT PHONE CALLS WE STILL DO NOT HAVE OUR CHRISTMAS CARDS. WE ARE SORRY TO ANNOUNCE THAT WE WILL NOT BE ABLE TO SELL CARDS THIS YEAR.

IF YOU ARE THE OVERLY OPTIMISTIC TYPE YOU MAY STILL ORDER YOUR OWN - DIRECTLY FROM NATIONAL. CALL MURRAY WHITE, ME 2-6227 FOR A CHRISTMAS CARD BROCHURE AND ORDER BLANK.

THE CORE OFFICE

AT THE LAST REGULAR MEETING THE MEMBERSHIP VOTED TO ACCEPT AN OFFER TO RENT AN OFFICE AT 2202½ UNION. IN CASE YOU HAVEN'T SEEN IT DROP UP SOME TIME. WE'VE BEEN SCRUBBING, SCRAPING, OILING, REPAIRING, ALTERING, ETC. WE COULD USE YOUR HELP. CALL DON MATSON, SU 3-2104, TO FIND OUT WHAT YOU CAN DO TO HELP. ALSO, WE NEED VARIOUS TYPES OF OFFICE EQUIPMENT. FILE CABINETS, TYPEWRITERS, BROOMS, COAT RACKS, GARBAGE CAN(LARGE) MOPS, BUCKETS, ETC. (MORE COMPLETE LIST OF NEEDS WILL BE IN THE JANUARY CORELATOR) IF YOU HAVE ANYTHING TO OFFER CONTACT DON MATSON OR CAL HARRIS MA 2-9415.

ADOPT A CIVIL RIGHTS WORKER - NEAR ITS GOAL...

BARBARA DAVIS IS THE NEW CHAIRMAN OF OUR PROJECT TO ADOPT A CIVIL RIGHTS WORKER.

OUR GOAL AS YOU KNOW IS $1300 TO PAY THE EXPENSES OF ONE CIVIL RIGHTS WORKER IN MISSISSIPPI FOR ONE YEAR. THIS IS VERY LITTLE CONSIDERING THAT THIS MEANS FOOD, HOUSING, AND ALL OTHER EXPENSES. TODATE WE HAVE RECEIVED $1010 AND HOPE TO COLLECT THE REMAINING $290 FROM THOSE WHO HAVE NOT YET GIVEN THEIR SHARE. SEND YOUR CONTRIBUTION TO "ADOPT A CIVIL RIGHTS WORKER", C/O CORE, BOX 299, SEATTLE.

WANTED - NON-WHITE RECRUITS FOR THE POLICE & FIRE DEPARTMENTS

THERE HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED WITHIN THE SEATTLE POLICE & FIRE DEPT. A SPECIAL RECRUITING TEAM WHOSE BASIC PURPOSE IS TO ACTIVELY INTEREST QUALIFIED PERSONS OF MINORITY GROUPS TO SEEK CAREERS IN THE POLICE & FIRE DEPT.S AND TO EMPHASIZE BOTH DEPARTMENTS POLICY AND ATTITUDE OF EQUAL OPPORTUNITY FOR ALL.

THE FUNCTION OF THIS TEAM IS TO MEET WITH ORGANIZATIONS REPRESENTING MINORITY GROUPS AND ASK FOR THEIR ASSISTANCE IN ENCOURAGING QUALIFIED PERSONS TO APPLY FOR POSITIONS IN THE TWO DEPARTMENTS. IT IS HOPED THAT THESE ORGANIZATIONS WILL CONTACT QUALIFIED PERSONS AND SET UP MEETINGS WITH THE RECRUITING TEAM SO THAT THE TEAM CAN FAMILIARIZE THE INTERESTED PERSONS IN THE REQUIREMENTS, DUTIES AND BENEFITS OF THE POLICE & FIRE DEPARTMENTS.

TO MAKE ARRANGEMENTS FOR A MEETING BETWEEN QUALIFIED PERSONS AND THE RECRUITING TEAM PLEASE CALL EITHER SGT. ROBERT MILLER, JU 3-2200 OR FIREMAN CLAUDE HARRIS, MA 3-0012.

DON'T SHOP DOWNTOWN

DON'T GO TO A MOVIE DOWNTOWN

DON'T EAT AT A RESTAURANT DOWNTOWN

A REVIEW OF 1964

SEATTLE CORE, IN THE YEAR 1964, ENGAGED IN SO MANY ACTIVITIES IT MAKES YOUR HEAD SPIN. HEREWITH ARE MOST BUT NOT ALL OF OUR ACTIVITIES.

PROJECTS INVOLVING DIRECT ACTION: DEEDS, A&P, PICTURE FLOOR PLANS, TRADEWELL, NORDSTROMS, THE VIGIL AT THE FEDERAL COURTHOUSE AND PARADE TO THE MALL, FARWEST & GRAYTOP CABS.

PROJECTS IN STUDY & DEVELOPMENT: EDUCATION, AND HOUSING STANDARDS, RENT STRIKE.

OTHER ACTIVITIES: ADOPT A CIVIL RIGHTS WORKER CAMPAIGN, WEEKEND RETREAT DELEGATES TO NATIONAL & REGIONAL CONVENTIONS, THE DANCE AND CHRISTMAS PARTY.

NEGOTIATIONS: A&P, TRADEWELL, DARIGOLD, CARNATION, WONDER BREAD, LANGENDORF BREAD, WASHINGTON NATURAL GAS, J.C. PENNEY CO., FARWEST & GREYTOP CABS, GREYHOUND BUS CO., LUCKY STORES, SAFEWAY, FREDERICK & NELSON, BON MARCHE, NORDSTOMS, BEST, AND DEEDS INVOLVED NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND VARIOUS LEVELS OF GOVERNMENT.

SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS, AND HOUSE MEETINGS AND ON AND ON. WE CAN ALL THANK EACH OTHER FOR PITCHING IN AND BRINGING EQUALITY A LITTLE NEARER. WITH THIS KIND OF COMMITMENT, WE SHALL OVERCOME.

NEXT REGULAR MEMBERSHIP MEETING

TUESDAY - JANUARY 12, 1965, 8 PM

AT E. CHERRY YWCA

HAPPY HOLIDAYS

AND

A NEW YEAR OF HOPE

FOR

GOODWILL TO ALL MEN

SEATTLE CORE
BOX 299
SEATTLE 11,, WN.

NON-PROFIT
ORGANIZATION

35

Richard Haley
CORE Southern Reg. Offic
221 Dryads
New Orleans, La.

(1964)

CORE - Congress of Racial Equality,
Western States Region,
Harold K. Brown, Regional Vice-Chairman.

Regional Office: San Francisco, California
2085 Sutter Street. JO. 7-3430
(Shirley Mesher - Public Relations Director)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONCLUSION OF REGIONAL CONVENTION, RE-ORGANIZATION, NEW DIRECTION.

The 35 Chapters of the Western States Region of the Congress of Racial Equality have just concluded a 3 day Regional Convention in Los Angeles. To gain more effective means and organization to solve the problems of wide-spread discrimination in the Western States, a Regional Action Council was formed and delegates were elected to this body. Also created were 4 District Action Councils, new sub-divisions of the Region.

CORE realizes that additional progress in the field of civil rights will be difficult, particularly in the more subtle methods of blatant discrimination and bigotry practiced in the North. The John Birch Society and the Klu Klux Klan are florishing in this atmosphere -- and we have recently witnessed the establishment of several branches of the White Citizens Council (a Mississippi based racist organization) in the North, particularly in California.

Many Communities in the West have voted against fair housing ordinances and California has just recently passed the first legalized segregation bill in the form of Proposition 14. The people have now openly admitted - through the polls - what CORE has long known: that few will defend the rights and dignity of their minority citizens. They have now loudly proclaimed themselves to be prejudiced and/or bigoted.

CORE and other true leaders of the civil rights battle will not settle for tokenism and the purely surface progress made to date. Nor will they accept illegal and un-Constitutional laws such as Proposition 14 that prevent the elected representatives of all the people from protecting the human rights of the minority. There is only one 'right'. And that is not property right -- for just a little more than 100 years ago, the Negro was also considered property.

The basis of democracy is not law ... it is justice. And no one can deny any citizen his constitutional rights -- through law, in the name of law nor by mal-practice of law.

CORE is therefore mobilizing its forces and re-organizing for greater strength and to work more effectively on a much broader scale. CORE will also broaden its scope* of interest and methods to begin a massive assault on the very critical and deep problems that create and add to the practice of discrimination. Direct action of the demonstration type will also continue full scale where we find it necessary -- though perhaps other methods may be devised besides the familiar picket lines and sit-ins.

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* see attached sheets on new directions and emphasis of comprehensive program.

[1964]

CORE - Congress of Racial Equality
Western States Region
2085 Sutter Street, San Francisco.
JO. 7-3430

(Shirley Mesher - Public Relations.)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MAJOR POSITION PAPER - CORE REACTION TO PASSAGE OF PROPOSITION 14.
Issued by Harold K. Brown (San Diego - 262-0292) - State-wide Housing Chr.
and Vice Chairman, Western States Region of CORE.

With only one small county narrowly defeating Proposition 14, the entire state of California must share the guilt, shame and burden of obvious prejudice and bigotry. This can be the only real meaning of a vote that has made segregation and bigotry legal.

It has stripped off the thin facade of "good will" and the plea that "most people really want to do the right and moral thing". No matter what excuse anyone gives, there was in this case only one 'right'.

It has been suggested by some that demonstrations and sit-ins etc. which happened almost a year ago 'turned' the public against fair housing. How rediculous and weak is such baseless thinking. If people really believed in equality and justice and the rights of men, they would not suddenly stop believing even if they did not approve of certain tactics used to gain these ends. Certainly, it would only cause them to work harder and more urgently and effect the same results through other means. It has been precisely the failur of other means and the failure of response from individuals and those in influential positions that caused civil rights groups to turn to non-violent direct action.

This issue was of tremendous importance and its ramifications are bound to be felt throughout the nation. And no amount of apologies will now soothe the anger, disgust and distrust felt by the minority communities in California and throughout the United States ... indeed, throughout the world. These are not matters - human rights and dignity - that legislation can deny. These are inherent rights of every American citizen and the majority - no matter how loudly or powerfully they express themselves - can in fact take away the rights of part of their citizenry.

The Congress of Racial Equality is fully convinced - and has been from the beginning - that this far ranging segregationist amendment to the California State Constitution is illegal and that the courts will declare it so. Never-the-less, since it was on the ballot, the populous of this state had a unique opportunity to show their 'good faith' and intentions and to respond boldly, morally and sympathetically to the righteous cry of their fellow man.

(more)

They heavily spurned the opportunity and instead chose to strike out and stamp on the very heart and head of their minority populations; and at the same time they allowed such hate and racist organizations as the John Birch Society to flourish and the White Citizen's Council to organize in several cities in the state. What a sad and hineous day to be recorded in the annals of American History. California need no longer look with pretended disgust at the South and shake a finger at their crimes. For this vote has shown once again that the North is no better than the South...only that it pretends to be different and has an illusion of being "fair". This hypocracy and double-talk is even worse.

(We know that many thousands of Californians answered the call and put in countless hours working for the defeat of Proposition 14. We know and appreciate this. All California CORE chapters also worked quietly, hard and long - in close cooperation with Californians Against Proposition 14 - during the summer and up through the closing of the polls on election day. And also to no avail.)

The united effort of thousands and thousands of volunteers, hundreds of endorsing organizations, top legal and social opinions and literature in abundance was not able to avert the crushing defeat on this issue. CORE also then hopes that the newspapers, clergy, elected officials, civic leaders, labor leaders, lawyers, doctors, dentists, businessmen and workers, housewifes, students and all others that campaigned so intensely will now know that sadly and pitifully, this is not the way nor the answer. That, unfortunately, as much as we would like to see it otherwise, the only way is through stronger pressures...pressures that make escape and denial impossible...pressures that force the self-imposed 'blind' to open their eyes to reality.

CORE will support every effort to have a swift decision from the courts declaring this Amendment unconstitutional and illegal. In the meantime, we will continue to fight for unsegregated housing and try to establish and build fair housing listing services in cooperation with other agencies. And we will also insist that 'the-letter-of-the-law' be observed by the Federal government in denying as they must, due to discrimination - any future FHA loans in the State of California and some $270 million Federal aid ear-marked for Urban Renewal in California. Urban Renewal is already under way in about 37 cities in the state ...and part of the $276.6 million now involved might also be recinded. If California wants to discriminate and practice bigotry, then they must know and feel the penalties - including the tremendous cost in funds to the state and in jobs which will be lost as a result.

(more)

CORE on Proposition 14 - add 2 -

Those who fought so hard for a NO on 14 have now tasted and shared in a small part of the depth of constant frustration that the Negro and other minorities suffer and despair of every day of their life. They should now understand and will perhaps join us as we return to negotiations and a heavy non-violent action program to accomplish the rest of the job in all phases of civil rights ... to give every American his first class rights ... to give him his dignity. And if our moderate methods fail to gain significant results, then surely very shortly there will be ~~others that will seek~~ and practice ~~much~~ more extreme actions.

All ~~sincerely~~ of 'good faith' might as well face the ugly realities of the situation and look at it honestly. The "streets" might not be the "best" way, but - in our corrupted and warped and sick society - it is obviously the only way!

We Shall Overcome!

##########

Post

[1964?]

CONGRESS OF RACIAL EQUALITY
CORE

SEATTLE CORE
P.O. BOX 299
SEATTLE 11, WASHINGTON
EA 5 - 5496

DEAR FRIEND,

SEATTLE CORE IS WRITING TO YOU TO INVITE YOU TO HELP DRIVE DISCRIMINATION AWAY IN THE TAXICAB INDUSTRY. CORE ASKS YOU NOT TO RIDE IN FARWEST OR GRAY TOP TAXICABS.

FOR OVER A YEAR, SEATTLE CORE ALONG WITH THE NAACP, THE WASHINGTON BOARD AGAINST DISCRIMINATION AND MANY OTHER GROUPS HAVE BEEN INVESTIGATING, NEGOTIATING, AND USING PERSUASION IN AN ATTEMPT TO END THE DISCRIMINATORY HIRING PRACTICES OF FARWEST AND GREY TOP CAB COMPANIES. BOTH COMPANIES ARE STILL LILY WHITE AND REFUSE TO EVEN CONSIDER HIRING NEGRO CAB DRIVERS.

DURING THIS TIME WE HAVE SEEN THE PORT OF SEATTLE OPEN UP THE SEATTLE-TACOMA AIRPORT TO DRIVERS OF THESE FIRMS AND THE SEATTLE SCHOOLBOARD AWARD THE LARGEST TAXICAB CANTRACT IN THE AREA TO ONE OF THESE COMPANIES. THE SITUATION IS CLEAR. WE MUST ACT NOW TO END DISCRIMINATION IN HIRING BY THESE COMPANIES.

FARWEST AND GRAY TOP EMPLOY 380 DRIVERS BETWEEN THEM. THEY HAVE NEVER HAD A NEGRO DRIVER EVEN THOUGH QUALIFIED NEGRO DRIVERS HAVE APPLIED FOR EMPLOYMENT. NEGOTIATIONS WITH THESE COMPANIES HAVE PROVED FRUITLESS.

EVERYTIME YOU RIDE IN A FARWEST OR GRAY TOP CAB YOU SUPPORT DISCRIMINATION. WE ASK YOU TO REFUSE TO USE THESE CABS. REQUEST ANOTHER COMPANY WHEN CALLING A CAB; REFUSE TO RIDE IN A FARWEST OR GRAY TOP CAB IF ONE IS CALLED FOR YOU. JOIN CORE IN THIS PROJECT TO DRIVE DISCRIMINATION AWAY. DON'T RIDE IN A FARWEST OR GRAY TOP CAB.

VERY TRULY YOURS,

Harold "Tim" Martin

HAROLD "TIM" MARTIN, CHAIRMAN
SEATTLE CORE

[1964?]

ARE YOU BEING TAKEN *for a* RIDE?

-- NEITHER FARWEST NOR GRAY TOP CAB COMPANIES EMPLOY NEGRO DRIVERS.
-- BOTH COMPANIES HAVE STATED THAT THEY "DO NOT PLAN TO HIRE NEGROES."
-- QUALIFIED NEGRO DRIVERS HAVE APPLIED FOR JOBS AT FARWEST AND GRAY TOP CAB COMPANIES, BUT WERE NOT HIRED.

DON'T RIDE IN A FARWEST OR A GRAYTOP CAB

-- DON'T SUPPORT DISCRIMINATION! . . . . . DON'T PATRONIZE JIM CROW TAXIS!
-- DO JOIN CORE IN ENDING THE DISCRIMINATORY HIRING PRACTICES OF FARWEST AND GRAY TOP CAB COMPANIES

DRIVE DISCRIMINATION AWAY

SEATTLE CONGRESS OF RACIAL EQUALITY

CONGRESS OF RACIAL EQUALITY CORE

PHONE: EA 5-549(

SEATTLE CORE
Box 299
SEATTLE, WN.
98111

NON-PROFIT
ORGANIZATION

35

Richard Haley
CORE Southern Reg. Offic
221 Dryads
New Orleans, La.

Western Regional Office
CONGRESS OF RACIAL EQUALITY
2085 Sutter Street
San Francisco, California

TO: George Wiley
FROM: Wilfred T. Ussery
SUBJECT: Western Region and
Western Regional Office

DATE: February 1, 1965

Period covered by report: September, 1964 - January, 1965

This report covers parts IV, V and VI of your Field Report Outline. Parts I, II and III were sent to you January 25, 1965.

IV. BUDGET

A.	Rent	Western Regional Office - $55.00 per month. Actually spent in November and December - $110.00. As of February 5 our rent will be two months overdue, the amount being $110.00. Until we are allowed to open another bank account, this is supposed to be paid by the National Office.
B.	Phone	The bill is sent directly to the National Office by the phone company, so I have no knowledge of the amount.
C.	Auto	No autos owned or leased, but in December a car was rented for James Farmer when he was here for the Free Speech Movement Rally in Berkeley. The cost was $15.00
D.	Air Travel Auto Travel Other Travel Other Expenses	The following encompasses expenses spent in November and December, other than office expenses and supplies. The amounts cover expenses for the Western Regional Convention in Los Angeles, November 27, 28 and 29, during which the Regional Action Council was selected and the Regional Constitution, etc. was drawn. Staff was (This includes National Officers and paid staff) given expense money, and each person chose his own mode of transportation. Amounts went to Wilfred Ussery, Virginia Burton, Bennie Holmes (Task Force) Le Faucette (Task Force), Shirley Mesher (PR), Lois Rogers (Secretary)

Travel expense	$156.00
Supplies	410.51
Conference Hall	150.00
Orchestra (Dance)	100.00
Conf. Regis. Fees (For Nat. Officers and Staff)	25.00
Total Conf. Exp.	$841.51
Convention income:	
Loan (Since paid back)	$250.00
Convention Dance and Registration fees	565.00
Total	$815.00
Convention Deficit	26.51

E. Office Expenses

Our stationery bill for November and December is well over $300.00. This includes Supplies bought in September and October also. I don't have the exact amount because the bill has been sent directly to National from Don Spier, Stationer. It includes Mimeo paper, index cards, manila folders, etc.

Approx. $50.00 has been spent on postage

F. Projected budget

Because it is already February, I'll project expenses for February and March.

Postage - Training manuals to chapters and regular correspondence	$75.00
Postage - PR and Fund Raising (See separate report)	600.00
Paper - Training manuals to chapters, Press Releases, etc. Fund Raising Appeal letters Total of at least 15 cases	250.00
Envelopes - 7000 Regional Office	84.00
- Remittance Envelopes, 2,000	25.00
Rent - February and March	110.00

Phone - ?

Miscellaneous - (Petty cash, etc.) 100.00

$ 1,144.00

I can't, at this time, project how much money will be needed by the new Regional Field Secretary for travel expenses. I would assume that all of February and probably part of March, he would be familiarizing himself with the reports of chapter activities, and generally familiarizing himself with the problems as a whole.

V C. Regional Action Council

A regional Action Council has been organized in the Western Region. It contains most of the leadership of this Region. The first meeting was held in San Francisco shortly after the Regional Convention, which was held in Los Angeles in late November. There is good reason to be optimistic about this body's effectiveness in giving the Region a sense of direction and help with many of its problems.

A copy of the minutes from the Regional Convention and the RAC meeting are enclosed.

Space

The Regional Office is a room, 10 feet by 11 feet. During the day, two people are presently working in the office. When we have a new field secretary, and while he is in town, three people will be working here full time, plus two day-time part-time volunteers

At night time there are usually three volunteers plus a staff person working here. Often we have as many as 7 and 8 people working in here together.

We have tried to think of many ways to correct this situation, namely, finding larger quarters. We could possibly find a two room office for $75.00 a month, or, for $100.00 a month we could rent a 6 or 7 room residential flat. This would give us all the room we need, plus giving space for meeting rooms, supplies, etc.

Incidentally, also crowded into this 10 x 11 room are 4 supply cabinets, two book cases, three desks one file cabinet, plus about two dozen large card-board boxes which hold our files, etc.

VI. RECOMMENDATIONS

I believe this item is covered in my evaluation.

Respectfully submitted,

Wilfred T. Ussery,
Second Vice Chairman

Current Projects

PUBLIC HOUSING ADMINISTRATION

HOUSING AND HOME FINANCE AGENCY

WASHINGTON 25, D.C.
20413

OFFICE OF
THE COMMISSIONER

FEB 2 1965

Mr. Richard Haley
CORE Southern Director
2209 Dryades Street
New Orleans, Louisiana, 70113

Dear Mr. Haley:

The letter of January 7, from Mr. David J. Dennis to the Administrator has been referred to our Fort Worth Regional Office for investigation of the racial discrimination charges in the public housing program of New Orleans. Your attorneys, Collins, Douglas and Elie were sent a copy of Mr. Weaver's reply to Mr. Dennis' letter.

As soon as the investigation has been completed, your attorneys will hear further from us.

Sincerely yours,

Maria C. McLaurin

Commissioner

February 2, 1965

Mr. Walter R. Hundley, Chairman
CORE
Post Office Box 299
Seattle 11, Washington

Dear Walter:

Thanks so much for the $1100. The $200 for Holiday Cards will be assigned so you will be responsible for adopting a civil rights worker. Richard Haley will write to you giving the name and address of the person assigned to Seattle. I hope whoever he is will write to you quickly and give you a report of the activities in his area. We are grateful for your support.

I will write the printer again about your holiday card shipment. I'm really most distressed about this, but this is a case when apologies are not adequate.

Sincerely yours,

Marvin Rich, Director
Community Relations

/b

cc: Lula Farmer
Richard Haley

chapters
Seattle CORE

CORE SOUTHERN OFFICE
2209 Dryades Street
New Orleans, Louisiana 70113

March 4, 1965

Seattle CORE
2202½ East Union
Seattle, Washington 98122

Good Friends,

I'd like to ask that you send a copy of the CORE-lator to our project in Monroe, Louisiana and in Quincy, Florida. The address in Monroe is Committee on Registration Education 103 N. 10th Street. The address in Quincy is North Florida Citizenship Education Project Rt. 3 Box 423-F. Both of these projects sponsor local news letters too, and I shall write them to forward copies of their publications to you. I think you will find the exchange one of mutual benefit.

I would also like to receive a copy of the report on discrimination in downtown employment in Seattle. Some work on this problem is being done in some of the southern projects; again I think this may be of some interest to us here.

The above is one of the principal reasons I am interested in receiving news letters from chapters and projects. My primary aim is to stimulate exchange of these materials between cities, so that new ideas don't remain stuck in the town of origin. Thanks so much.

Sincerely,

Richard Haley
CORE Southern Director

RH/vjj

Seattle CORE - CONGRESS OF RACIAL EQUALITY ----- APRIL, 1965
2202½ East Union Ea 5-5496

CORE-LATOR

General Membership Meeting, Thursday, April 22, 1965, at Eastside YWCA 29th & E. Cherry. This should be a very exciting meeting, many issues to discuss and plans for action to make.

1. CORE Lawyers will discuss the present stautus of our Housing legal suit. CORE members will decide what our nexts steps in this action should be.
2. At the special meeting on April 5th, we decided to send teams of investigators to Langendorf Bakeries, Best's Apparel, Fisher Flouring Mills, and Rainier Breweries (companies with whom we had negotiated, but in some cases are not living up to agreements). Reports from these company negotiations and investigations will be made with recommendations for action.
3. At the special meeting, we also decided to concentrate particular effort on the Restaurant Industry and the University of Washington. The membership will be asked to authorize special projects aimed at these two. In the case of the University, teams of investigators are needed to discover whether our suspicion is correctthat Negroes are relegated to only certain areas of employment and excluded from others,

- * - * - * - * - * -

CORE Opens " NEW OFFICE " - 2202½ East Union

Seattle CORE has added a news means of doing effective civil rights work in the Seattle area- an office that will be open 8 hours a day for six days each week, to meet the needs of the Public.

ATTENTION- CORE invites you to attend the official opening of the office - an OPEN HOUSE- at 2202½ East Union, on Saturday, April17 and Sunday, April 18, from 1:00 P.M. to 4:30 P.M. At the OPEN HOUSE you will have the chance to see it: The dramatic 30 minute film " Freedom Ride " which will be shown continously in the small meeting room.

A special added bonus at the OPEN HOUSE will be the presence of the CORE WEST COAST REGIONAL SECRETARY, IKE REYNOLDS. Ike was assigned to the West Coast in January, after a two year stint in Alabama and Louisiana as CORE Southern Field Secretary. He will discuss the Southern situtions, answer questions about future CORE program there, as well as discuss plans for stepped up activity on the West Coast.

Information Booth will be manned by CORE activists to explain past, present, and future activities in the areas of Employment, Housing, Education.

The "Work Room" and all the volunteer staff who turn out the thousands of notices, leaflets, and pamphlets we turn out each year in the search for jobs, housing and equal education. Plus CORE's sign making equipment in operation. Refreshments will be served. Be Sure To Come.

- * -* * * - * - * -

FARMER VISITS SEATTLE - Our CORE chapter, and Seattle , was treated to the unexpected visit of James Farmer, National Director of CORE , on Saturday, April 3rd. Most of read about his visit in the news or saw him on television, so we recount his remarks to an overflow crowd of about 400 at the Madrona Presbyterian Church. We do, want to let you know, though, how a few dedicated CORE members spent a hectic 20 hours setting up the meeting. Farmer decided on this trip at the last moment because the college at Bellingham was offering a substantiantial donation to the National Office. He was due in Bellingham at 6:30 p.m. and his plane landed from New York at 3:30 p.m. on the same Saturday. We learned about this on Friday at 10;30 a. m. The news media were notified, press conferences were set up, telephne committees put in operation, Rev. Edd Crawford offered the use of his church - and Seattle was able to hear James Farmer. We also collected $204.00 to finance a charter plane to Bellingham and to send to the National Office. We hope to have him back in October for a more extended visit.

- * - * - * - * -*

The Orientation committee meets the first Tuesday in May on the 4th. This meeting is compulsory for all those desiring active CORE membership. The meeting starts at 8:00 p. m. at the CORE office.

ATTENTION- PUBLIC MEETING- Monday, April 19th, 8:00 p.m. The Crisis in Bogalusa, La. : Non-Violence At The Turning Point

Ike Reynolds, our visiting Western Regional Secretary, who for two years was Regional Secretary for the south- Mississippi, Alabama, and Louisiana, will discuss the steadily worsening situation in Bogalusa and Jonesboro, La. He will meet at the Eastside YWCA? 29th & East Cherry. We hope you will read the enclosed sheets chronicling the terror facing Negro residents and rights workers in that state. You will surely note that Negro residents have been forced to arm themselves before venturing any distance from their homes. Shots have been exchanged between Negroes and Whites, and unarmed Negroes are threatened and beaten. CORE has moved into this situation in an attempt to win the right to vote, the right to public accomodations and the right to peaceful assembly without fear; and to win these rights the non-violent way. Mr. Reynolds, a veteran of that experience, will discuss CORE's chances of success. The following telegram from the National Office points to the dangerous potential in the situation and also tells you what you can do to help;

" Situation in Bogalusa, La. deteriorating fast. Urge each chapter call members immediately. U rge each member call or wire White House and Justice Department immediately. Demand federal protection. Thousand armed Klansmen in town, CORE and Negro citizens marching today, violence expected any instant. "

* - * - * - * - * - *

PAY N' SAVE NEGOTIATIONS- The results concerning Negro employment in that organization have been reported and evaluated at our last meeting. The company has doubled its number of Negro employees, and will add more by the end of April. They also agreed to the principle of integrating those employees among their many stores in the Seattle area. CORE insisted on this integration plan whether or not the company built a new store in the central area. So far, we have not had to use direct action, and it is our hope that the plan will be implemented fully.

* - * - * - * * - * - *

Negro History Classes- For those of you lacking in your Negro History, CORAG wishes to announce Negro History classes sponsered by them at the East side YWCA. The classes are held every Wednesday at 7:30 pm. The class consists of ½ hour lecture and ½ hour class discussion. The class is free of charge.

* - * - * - * - * - *

Negro Scholarship Fund- The Seattle Urban League has released their latest facts concerning the Negro Scholarship Fund. They are as follows:
Their immediate goal is to receive over 100 new applications for the Fall 1965
Over $9,000 has been contributed and 38 students have been helped with tuition.
To achieve their goal they must have approxiamately $25,000. If you want to be a part of this worthy cause, please send 10¢ or more to Seattle Urban League, Lowman Bldg., Seattle 98104, at anytime.

* - * - * - - * - *

CIVIL RIGHTS QUOTEOF THE MONTH- Walt Hundley recently addressed a group of Young Adults in Anacortes, Wash. about human sacrifice and the Negro cause, A girl hearing him speak later sent him a letter and a poem to express her feelings; " One man awake can waken another
The second can waken his next door brother
The three awake can rouse the town
By turning the whole place upside down
The many awake can make such a fuss
That it finally wakens the rest of us
One man up with dawn in his eyes- multiply's "

Thank You Sandy Powell

* - * - * - * - * - *

Seattle CORE
2202½ East Union
Seattle, Washington 98122
Ea 5-5496

nonprofit org.
U. S. Postage
PAID
Seattle, Wash.
Permit # 9114

35

Richard Haley
CORE Southern Reg. Offic
221 Dryads
New Orleans, La.

2211

Return Requested

to. Off.

MEMORANDUM

CONGRESS OF RACIAL EQUALITY
38 Park Row
New York, New York 10038
May 21, 1965

TO: Isaac Reynolds, Western Regional Office
FROM: George Wiley, Associate National Director
RE: Western Regional Office and Staff

We are accepting the basic aspects of your proposal to close the Western Regional Office. We expect this to be a temporary move and expect that we might reopen it sometime in the fall, when resources might permit giving it the minimum complement of staff and equipment to make it an adequately functioning operation.

The NAC has mandated a concentration of resources in Louisiana. Toward implementation of this, we are transferring you to Louisiana, at least for the duration of the Summer Project. It is not possible to send you down for the South-wide staff conference the first week in June, but I worked out with Dave Dennis the plan for you to go with one of the contingents of volunteers from the West Coast when they leave for the training session around June ~~11th~~ 5?

Per our telephone conversation, I assume the office can be closed by June 15th when our rent contract expires and that a satisfactory place may be found for the storage of the furniture and equipment which we have there. I would appreciate your sending me an inventory of the things which we will be storing. I also suggest that you try to make some kind of arrangement for an answering service on that telephone number, for some period of time at least, which refers people to the National Office or someone in the region who can answer problems.

I am having Clora Coleman write to Lois Rogers regarding her situation. It will be retrenchment for her, and she will have first crack at jobs which will open up for which she may qualify.

We will hire one new Field Secretary immediately for the Western Region. I would like you and Lou to begin screening people for this position immediately. In addition to recommendations for that position, I would like to have recommendations from you as to how the administration of the region should be conducted. Also I would like to hear your priority for staff expansion there, including both types of positions and possible people to fill them. It would seem appropriate, however, in the light of the NAC's emphasis on Louisiana, that no action be taken on this before fall.

Western Regional

Western Regional Office
CONGRESS OF RACIAL EQUALITY
2085 Sutter Street
San Francisco, California

May 3, 1965

TO: JAMES FARMER, GEORGE WILEY, FLOYD McKISSICK, FIELD STAFF, NAC

SUBJECT: VIEWS ON CORE

FROM: LOUIS S. SMITH, FIELD SECRETARY

Because of chapter inactivity over the Easter weekend, I am taking advantage of the "Free time" to put into writing some things I have wanted to say concerning our organization. I hope this memo is taken in the constructive and suggestive spirit in which it is given.

The following are some things that I think are really worthy of discussion:

Are we going to be the sum total of our chapters or are we going to be a separate entity? This question needs a quick and honest answer. Our chapters are drifting away from us, and if I might add, with a great deal of justification. In fact, if you look at our problems, including financial, you can trace it back to this break between the National Office and its chapters. Our recent appeal for funds from our chapters, and their lack of response, bears this out.

True, most of our chapters are without funds, but this aids in proving my point. They don't know how to raise money because we, the Field Staff never told them because no one ever told us. I am aware that fund raising memos have been sent to the chapters, but I have learned here in the field that memos are not the answer. One short personal visit from a trained Field Staff person can do more to develop chapter technique and motivation, along with making the chapters aware that they are part of a national organization and movement, than a thousand memos.

To be brutally frank, if the chapters had the funds, we wouldn't get them anyway. Providence, Rhode Island CORE is a clear illustration of what I am talking about.

When I went to visit the chapter, coming from the National Office, I wasn't very popular. I spent a weekend with them discussing philosophy and CORE Chapter structure, relating this to their present chapter. This is not as easy as it sounds. Given the fact that most chapters have factions within them, Field Staff have to be most careful less it appears that they are siding with one or the other of the factions. If this happens, we can forget it. We and the chapters have had it.

We discovered that Farmer was speaking in Boston, so the Chairman of Providence CORE came down to the National Office to try and get Jim to come by Providence, which is not far from Boston.

I introduced the chairman to Jim, who willingly adjusted his schedule to meet the request.

I spent the weekend before leaving for the West Coast with the chapter. We made constitutional changes establishing a real committee structure. I found spirits extremely high in the chapter.

Last week, I received a 16 page letter from one of the chapter members. I will quote excerpts from that letter:

"Our chapter has been doing pretty well lately. We've gotten a heap of new members who are working very actively and have added some new blood to the group. Committees are shaping up better.

"We've been working on a door to door canvas of minimum housing code violations, along with a court by court neighborhood clean-up . . . we've started a neighborhood newspaper . . . we started a coffee clutch with 4 people. A few weeks later, we had 20-25 neighborhood ladies who are now taking turns bringing pastry, etc."

The letter goes on to say that after threatening to take action, the next day the "Fair Housing" Bill was rushed out of Committee and passed.

The chapter not only stopped a Brown University Fraternity from using "black-face" make-up, but ended up in recruiting the fraternity to help them in neighborhood projects. The following excerpt, I feel, is the clincher:

"Farmer came to Providence directly from Selma and started the spirit rising. He managed to inspire a little of the neighborhood. He was really with the nitty-gritty, going through slums and standing on the back of a truck with a hand bull horn. We managed to raise over $700.00 for National."

On page 1 of this memo I underlined 'trained' in referring to Field Staff because I feel that here lies one of the basic failures of the National Office. In my nine and one-half months on the job, I have yet to be told what was expected of a Field Secretary. I was hired and left to grope. I have gotten by because I am basically chapter oriented, but what happens when we get Field Staff who are not, and are only movement or action oriented, or even politically oriented?

If we intend to not only keep, but really strengthen our chapter structure, the Field Staff must, by necessity, become the back bone of this effort. It goes without saying that unwise selection, training or usage of Field Staff can be disastrous. Take two recent examples; the Northeast and West.

When I went into Connecticut, those chapters were ready to form their own organization. Bridgeport and Norwalk could not get affiliated because they did not bow to the previous Field Staff and their politicking. This same politicking forced New Haven CORE to stay away from the Convention. Providence, Rhode Island, CORE just needed help in programming and direction. Because of past, self-interested Field Staff, these chapters had a bad taste in their mouth toward the National Office.

Hartford, Connecticut, informed me that a present Field Secretary, Eric Mann, stood them up on a fund raising program, which was their last straw.

I underlined 'present' because before I left the Northeast, I recommended his dismissal with what I thought was ample reason. I have yet to hear what happened to that report and recommendation.

The New York City Chapter problems coupled with the fact that there was no real chapter servicing or organizing by Field Staff; coupled with the fact that the Field Staff, when it did go to a chapter, did more harm than good; coupled with, by their own admission, lack of training; led to a vicious circle that left the Northeast in a mess.

Not only were we faced with chapter problems and chapter rebellions, but most of the Region was completely undeveloped. One chapter in the entire state of Pennsylvania. No chapters in Southern New Jersey. No chapters in Delaware, a state that still has the whipping post; and only two chapters in Maryland. None in Southern or Western Maryland, the rough areas.

Progress has been made over the past few months. I would caution you, however, that we can lose all this gain unless we stay in the field with the chapters and assist them in becoming viable groups. It cannot be done from a desk.

The West Coast suffers from similar neglect and unwise counselling. The Field Secretary had no training, so he couldn't train his task force workers, etc. The circle repeats itself. Things are so bad here, that when I go to a chapter, with very few exceptions, I have to sit down and explain what CORE is, what the NAC is, the organizational difference between Farmer and McKissick, and so on. They have no knowledge of what they are a part of.

Speaking of the Western Region, bear in mind that this includes eleven huge mainland states plus Hawaii, Alaska, and now Western Canada. A guy can get lost out here.

A guy can also get killed out here. the Right Wing is fast growing in the West Coast area. Several caches of arms and dynamite have already been uncovered. These include maching guns. Birchites have infiltrated school boards and are grabbing political control at local levels. Since their defeat on Proposition 14, the liberals seem to be disorganized and ineffective against this growing tide. We have White Citizens Councils, Klan groups, a large Nazi party, strong John Birch groups, and many other sundry right wing organizations.

It appears that CORE will have to spearhead the attack on the Right Wing, on both the racial and political fronts. We are in no position, on a staff or chapter level, to meet this challenge.

I do not feel qualified to comment on the South so I will make no attempt at evaluating that area and its problems.

If the answer to the earlier question about whether we wish to maintain our chapter structure is yes, and I hope it is, may I make the following suggestions:

1. Abandon, at least temporarily, the plan for an outside agency to train Field Staff.

2. For one, full, long and uninterrupted day before the Convention starts, let the entire staff sit down and have an honest discussion on what we find are the problems, what we think is the way we should solve them, exchange with each other our experiences with different approaches, decide once and for all, the roles of the National Office, Regional Offices, and Field Staff in relation to the chapters and to each other, and resign ourselves to coming out of that meeting with something concrete in the way of service to take before the convention for its approval and suggestions. This implies the guts, also, to eliminate dead wood.

I only mentioned service because all the Program in the world will be meaningless until we get our chapters to the point of first programming for themselves, and able to carry out program.

3. Strengthen the Department of Organization so that it will be able to strategically carry out any service program that is adopted, and so that it can surpervise and enforce the effort.

My feeling is that at the end of such a session, we will have, in fact, had one of the best training sessions that we could have. We should all know where we are going and how we intend to get there. If we build enthusiasm in ourselves, we can generate this to our chapters. This may sound a bit naive, but it is the same spirit that one gets when coming out of the huddle during a football game when the play has been selected and each man has his assignment. It is the spirit that has made this movement a Movement.

If CORE is to be the cutting edge, it will be because the thousands of CORE members across this land feel a part of a Total Movement! They need our help, and Ifeel we are nothing without them.

Periodically we should have these total staff meetings with the NAC, as equals, in honest dialogue.

If properly handled, in the near future, we will become one hard hitting unit; at which time we can truly fund raise on a National Basis, program on a National basis, and bring change on a national, regional and local basis.

Please let me hear your views on this matter.

Yours for Freedom,

Louis S. Smith,
Western Region Field Secretary

LSS:lr

MISS 1962

Seattle Unit

CORE SOUTHERN OFFICE
2209 Dryades Street
New Orleans, Louisiana 70113

June 22, 1965

Mr. Walter H. Huntley
Chairman Seattle CORE
P. O. Box 299
Seattle 11, Washington

Dear Mr. Huntley,

Please accept my apologies for the tardiness of this reply to your letter of June 7th.

First of all, Miss Fusco is working in Mississippi and has been for many months. I don't believe that National Office clearly understood the preference of Seattle CORE for Miss Fusco; consequently another Mississippi person was under discussion as the recipient of this grant. However, that matter is now cleared up.

Miss Fusco and I have not had frequent communication, so I am requesting reports from her and from Richard Jewett, the CORE field secretary in Miss. concerning Miss Fusco's activities of late. I would like to withhold any further comment on this matter until I have had the chance to look over the reports and talk with Elizabeth about her work.

Sincerely,

Richard Haley
CORE Southern Director

RH:vjj

cc
Richard Jewett --Jackson, Mississippi
Elizabeth Fusco --Greenwood, Mississippi
Karen Berg--National Office

MASK
Cleveland Ohio

CORE SOUTHERN OFFICE
2209 Dryades Street
New Orleans, Louisiana 70113

July 28, 1965

Miss Ruth Turner
1740 Crawford Road
Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Ruth,

The enclosed letter is self-explanatory, I think. But I don't know the present state of grace that exists between Cleveland CORE and the school board. For fear there might be some possible confusion I decided to let you know of this letter before you forward it to the Supt. I depend on your judgement as to the practicability of forwarding the letter. If you have any comment, please let me hear from you!

Randy Glenn has told me something of his projected plans for fund-raising in the Cleveland area. I take it you are in contact with him, and hope prospects look promising. I have been thinking seriously of asking Randy to try to relocate himself in some other work. His "detached duty" with SNCC is something of a noble gesture on our part-albert a very tiny one--but we're just to far removed from Montgomery to know what Randy does, or how well. While he has demonstrated certain effectiveness, this is no great enthusiasm among other project leaders for Randy's transferral to any CORE project.

All this is to say it occurred to me we could honorably release him shortly, but carry him on the payroll through August. During that time he might be able to carry out some of his fund-raising ideas.

It seems to me that all of this is of some concern to Cleveland CORE since the chapters raised considerable money to send Randy to the South. Again, I'd be glad to receive your comments.

Sincerely,

Richard Haley
CORE Southern Director

RH/vjj

file with ans.

Director
CORE Southern Regional Office

Dear Sir: [1965, August?]

I just thought I might drop you a note to let you know that a youth group in Mobile, Ala. is organized but needs some organizational drive and support. Could you provide this help?

The group may be contacted through Mrs. Dorothy Williams asking for Walter York or Sims Pettway.

Thanks.

Blaine Ackley
16923-A Maplewild S.W.
Seattle, Wash. #98166

P.S. Mrs. Williams address:

702 N. Craft Hwy.
Prichard 10, Ala.

Seattle Wash.

CORE SOUTHERN OFFICE
2209 Dryades Street
New Orleans, Louisiana 70113

August 5, 1965

Mr. Blaine Ackley
16923-A Maplewild, S. W.
Seattle, Washington 98166

Dear Mr. Blaine,

It is impossible for this office to assign anyone to Mobile, Alabama at this time. I'm very sorry that such is the case; we certainly hate to turn down any request for assistance. But we have neither the money nor personnel. In case our situation improves, I shall certainly make an effort to get in touch with Mrs. Williams. Thanks very much for your letter.

Sincerely,

Richard Haley
CORE Southern Director

RH/vjj

West Virginia
1905, July

610 S. Front St.
Wheeling, W. Va.

July 16, 1964

Dear Richard,

It's my day to work in our office and as I was going through the Corelator, I noticed your address. We were told you were sent to New Orleans but we did not have the address, ~~so~~ time I'm winding up some of our correspondence and had the urge to drop you a line to give you an idea what we are doing as well as asking you how it goes with you.

We are maintaining a "tiny" office (but we got it) in the heart of the Negro Community. As you know we had to find and develop andtrain our own leadership. Progess is slow, but it is getting done. We still have not had a work shop, altho' we were quite close to having this realized when Marvin Robinson was here, somehow it didn't get organized.

We had Robert Gore address us at our second public rally (first was the one you spoke before at the hotel, remember?). We had 60 people in attendance and after the rally about 20 young people came in for inquiry etc. It was a fine rally in that everyone got some "education", inspiration etc. But we still need Negro leadership among our youth. Someone capable of pulling the thing together.

We have been working on housing, leaflet distribution on Meridan, Miss tragedy and getting a campaign underway for the clothing drive for the COFO.

We had a delegate to the Convention. Progress is slow but our determination keeps us moving and more doors are opening to us now.

I know you are busy and I do so wonder how the events will be met. Put us on the mailing list. Our box numer is 685 Wheeling, W. Va. We would love to hear from you.

Always our cherished thoughts will be with you

Genne Kuhn

Enclosed check for your wonderful efforts.

I want to subscribe to the Mississippi Free Press — do you have the address?

Southern Regional Office
2211 Dryades Street
New Orleans, Louisiana
523-7204

July 28, 1964

Genne Kuhn
610 S. Front Street
Wheeling, West Virginia

Dear Genne,

Your letter was quite a surprise, especially since I did not see you at the convention. The contribution is very much appreciated. Please consider this letter as an official receipt from CORE for your $5 donation.

"Unofficial" reports indicate that Wheeling CORE is still having some degree of trouble within. I am sorry to hear this and hope by the time you receive this letter, any trouble will be a matter of the past.

I hope to continue hearing from you or some other representative of Wheeling CORE. I am pretty far away to be of any help; nevertheless if called on I will do what I can.

Sincerely,

Richard Haley

RH/ds

[1964]

Mrs. Richard Haley

CORE

CONGRESS OF RACIAL EQUALITY

1958 - 1963

Charleston, West Virginia

CORE
CONGRESS OF RACIAL EQUALITY

The Congress of Racial equality is a national organization with affiliated local chapters working to erase the color line through direct non-violent action in their own communities.

CORE BELIEVES

That racial segregation affects ALL Americans adversely ---

That the erasure of segregation is the problem of every American ---

That the active practice of brotherhood here and now insures the true future brotherhood of ALL mankind.

Charleston CORE was the first and has been the only organization to employ the 'sit-in' technique and public demonstrations to combat racial discriminations in this area.

CORE HAS ASSISTED IN PRODUCING A SUCCESSFUL CHANGE OF POLICY IN EVERY PROJECT IT HAS UNDERTAKEN SINCE IT WAS ORGANIZED IN 1958.

CORE
ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Integrated sit-down facilities in local Variety stores in Charleston.

Woolworth Five & Ten Cent Store
Newberry's
Kresge Variety Store
The Diamond Dept. Store - Coffee Shop
The Diamond Dept. Store - Cafeteria
The Lobby Restaurant

Assisted with negotiations ---
All local restaurants
All Dairy Stores
Y. M. C. A.
Y. W. C. A.
Housing Units
Union Carbide Cafeteria
Capitol, Kearse, Virginian, Village
and other local theatres

Integrated through CORE demonstrations Charleston General Hospital.

CORE
SPONSORED

The Council of Church Women's Workshop

The Mayor's Commission on Human Rights
Dinner - 1960-61

Union Picnics Coonskin Park
1959-1960-1961

Civil Rights Ordinance in City Council
1959 (Bill defeated)

West Virginia Senate Bill #115 for the creation of the State Human Rights Commission
(Sent letters, telegrams and lobbied)
(Bill passed)

Co-sponsored with NAACP and C.I.P Freedom bus to Washington, D. C. for Civil Rights March

Sent delegate to Washington, D. C. to lobby for passage of Civil Rights Bill.

CORE ASSISTED IN NEGOTIATIONS FOR EMPLOYMENT OF NEGROES WITH -------

J. C. Penny Store	N. S.
Stone & Thomas Department Store	N. S.
The Diamond Department Store	N. S.
Coyle & Richardson Department Store	N. S.
C & P Telephone Co.	N. S.
United Fuel Gas Co.	N. S.
West Virginia Water Co.	N. S.
F. M. C.	N. S.
Union Carbide Company	N. S.
Metropolitan Life Insurance Co.	N. F.
Charleston Transit Co.	N. F.

N. S. - Negotiations Successful
N. F. - Negotiations Failed

(This area has been explored by many civic and religious groups).

CORE ACTIVELY SUPPORTS AND WORKS WITH ----

The N. A. A. C. P.

The Southern Christian Leadership Conference

The Kanawha Valley Council on Human Relations

The Mayor's Commission on Human Rights

The West Virginia Human Rights Commission

And any person or group with a common objective.

CORE EXTRA ACTIVITIES

Rang Christmas Bells for Salvation Army 1961-1962-1963.
Aided local flood victims.
Cooked and served over 200 hot meals.
Solicited food, clothing and household furnishings.
Purchased twenty sets of garden hose for Wertz Avenue housewives.
Distributed over 2000 pieces of Freedom literature in area.
Contributed $250.00 to S.C.L.C. and other Freedom groups.
Collected and mailed to Gov. Geo. Wallace and late President Kennedy and Attorney General Robert Kennedy 1800 pictures of racial atrocities in 1963.
Filled 42 speaking engagements.
Contributed $25.00 to W.V.S.C. student for Crossroads Africa.
Purchased a sewing machine for Second Avenue recreation center.

Active CORE members must take a vow of non-violence, must pay dues and participate in CORE projects.

Associate members support the organization with moral and financial aid.

We make no claim for full responsibility for the many changes in our valley -- we do know that many things have come about because of CORE and we also know that many things have been restrained because of the sure knowledge that CORE exists.

[1904-1905]

Dear Dick:

I'm living at the Y.M.C.A. in Charleston and may be reached there simply address mail to Y.M.C.A., Charleston, W. Va. or through our contact Mrs. E. Gilmore, 514 Broad Street, Charleston, W. Va.

Enclosed you will find several copies of a resume sent out by the local group in their annual fund raising, membership drive letter. It is simply complete and noteworthy.

Sincerely,

Mark

P.S. We are working on a housing project, any suggestions?

VA.

MALCOLM P. CALHOUN
Secretary

IRVIN ELLIGAN, JR.
Associate Secretary

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PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN THE UNITED STATES

MARSHALL C. DENDY, *Executive Secretary*

PRESBYTERIAN BUILDING • EIGHT NORTH SIXTH STREET • BOX 1176

RICHMOND, VIRGINIA 23209

Telephone: Area Code 703 • 643-6691

DIVISION OF CHRISTIAN ACTION

July 27, 1965

Mr. Richard Haley
c/o C.O.R.E.
2211 Dryades Street
New Orleans, Louisiana

Dear Mr. Haley:

Following up our telephone conversation, let me say that we appreciate very much your acceptance of our invitation to participate in the Christian Action Conference, August 19 - 22.

Your specific assignment is to participate in a panel on Friday evening, August 20. The panel members representing a number of civil rights organizations, will speak briefly of the purpose and procedure of their particular organization. There will be opportunity for questions from the Conference delegates to the panel. If you are able to stay through the Conference, we would, of course, want to use you as a resource person.

You will note that the theme of the Conference is The Church and Civil Rights. For Conference delegates, it will be a time of learning through dialogue and conversation with persons who have been actively participating in the civil rights movement.

We are making room reservations for you for the full period beginning August 19. If you cannot be present for the entire time, please let us know. Also, if you will notify us about the time of your arrival at the Asheville Airport, we will arrange transportation for you to Montreat which is near Black Mountain, North Carolina.

Looking forward to having you at the Conference, and with every good wish, I remain,

Sincerely yours,

Malcolm P. Calhoun

MPC:oewp
Enclosures (2)

MSS CORE - SOUTHERN
85

Regional OFFICE

Staff - Correspondence

1964, Oct
1965, Sept

October 18, 1964

The CORE Southern Office is responsible for administration of the Southeast and Southcentral CORE regions (presently excepting Washington, D. C., West Virginia and Kentucky). In its beginning phase the office will be staffed by the following personnel:

Director	Richard Haley	
Program Director	Dave Dennis	
Public Relations Secretary	Edward Hollander	
Field Research Associate	William Yates	(presently TF)
Field Research Assistant	Judy Nussbaum	(presently volunteer)
Secretary-accountant	to be hired	(possibly TF)
Clerk(s)	as needed	(TF)

The basic function of the office is to develop integrated program, program methodology and budget for the given areas. Presently the southern staff submits two programs yearly: one, June through September; the other, October through May. (However, the recently submitted program looks ahead as far as 1968.) Within this broad function are several specific responsibilities:

a. to organize new CORE chapters and service existing ones through deployment of traveling field staff;
b. to recommend employment and release of personnel;
c. to recommend acquisition of facilities, materials and equipment;
d. to maintain sufficient financial base, locally, to take care of running expenses of the office, traveling field secretaries, emergency regional expenditures, etc.;
e. to requisition funds from national office in order to satisfy financial needs as indicated;
f. to consult with southern staff on plans, problems, etc.;
g. to maintain communication with southern legal staff;
h. to receive and act on:
   1. expense reports from field secretaries
   2. activity reports from field secretaries
   3. expense reports from projects
   4. program reports from projects
   5. auto expense reports (leased cars)
   6. regular periodic reports from southern office staff

(items 1-5 will be transmitted to national office after appropriate action by southern office; item(s) 6 may be included with or incorporated in monthly report of southern director to national office.)

i. to report monthly on progress, etc., in area program;
j. to report monthly on office receipts and disbursements;
k. to send periodic reports to members of NAC.

NOTE: for further discussion of southern office and program, see memos submitted by Richard Haley to Steering Committee, September, 1964 and to NAC, October, 1964.

Richard Haley

Richard Haley
Southern Director

1501½ East Boulevard
Baton Rouge, Louisiana
November 30, 1964

Our Lady of the Lake Hospital
1600 North Third Street
Baton Rouge, Louisiana

ATTENTION: Insurance Clerk

Dear Sir:

Please fill a claim for Ronnie M. Moore for x-ray using your hospital form, then forward the form to Associated Hospital Service of New York.

Thanking you in advance.

Sincerely,

Ronnie M. Moore

RMM/jmj

1501½ East Blvd.
Baton Rouge, Louisiana
November 7, 1964

Claim Department
Associated Hospital Service
of New York
90 Elexington Avenue
New York 16, New York

Dear Sir:

Enclosed is a bill for x-ray service rendered by Our Lady of the Lake Hospital, 1600 Third Street, Baton Rouge, Louisiana - 70802. The services rendered to the unsigned employee of the Congress of Racial Equality, 38 Park Row, New York 38, New York. Certificate number 13083511. Thanking you for making check payable to the forestated hospital.

Sincerely yours,

Ronnie M. Moore

RMM/jmj
Enclosure

December 1, 1964

MEMORANDUM
TP: SOUTHERN OFFICE STAFF
SUBJECT: OFFICE PROCEDURES

The Congress of Racial Equality has finally opened a checking account at the St. Charles branch of the National Bank of Commerce. While the bank only requires that checks be signed by either David Dennis or Richard Haley, the southern office requires that each check be signed by both parties. This rule will be strictly adhered to, and becomes effective beginning December 2, 1964.

The standard maximum operating fund for the petty cash box is $25.00. At any point the amount of cash and petty cash vouchers in the box should equal not less than the abovestated amount. Only one person is authorized to use the box and record petty cash transactions: Mrs. Rogers, the general office secretary. Beginning on the above date, stamps will also be kept in the petty cash box and issued by Mrs. Rogers.

All mail except that marked "personal" will be opened by the office secretary at the desk, looked over, then distributed to the respective addressees.

Staff members are requested to weigh the importance of all letters they receive and send out. Where the content seems of general importance, the receiver should either circulate the letter or summarize it for later report and discussion at weekly staff meeting.

Weekly staff meetings will be held beginning Monday, January 11, 1965 at 10 a.m. All office personnel and field personnel working in the city are expected to attend.

As a security measure, typewriters should not be left on desks in front of the large window overnight. They should be taken to the storage room. Lights should be left burning in the washroom and the rear office. People working after 10 p.m. should lock the front door, especially when working alone.

In terms of the critical financial situation: [illegible] keep long distance telephone calls few and brief; make suggestions.

Richard Haley

Jan 13,1965

To: CORE Southern Office

From: Joel Rubenstein

Dear Sirs,

I applied for Southern task force. On November 17, 1964 I received a letter saying that my application had been forwarded to Mr. Richard Jewett. I have not heard from Mr. Jewett. I will graduate from college this month and I would like to go down South about the first of Febuary. Hoping to hear from you soon ~~Ire~~ I remain.

Yours For FREEDOM

Joel Rubenstein
789 Astor Ave
Bronx 10467, New York

If ~~he~~ she can support herself—

CORE Southern Regional Office
2209 Dryades Street
New Orleans, Louisiana
January 20, 1965

Mr. Joel Rubenstein
789 Astor Avenue
Bronx, New York 10467

Dear Mr. Rubenstein:

Our sincere apologies for keeping you "up in the air" about your application. Because of financial/personnel difficulties, none of the applications that went into Mississippi in November and December were processed. Your memo of January 13 reminded us of yours, in particular--and by a wild stroke of good fortune, your happened to be one of the applications I brought with me when I moved from the Jackson to the Southern Regional office!

Because of CORE's current financial crisis, we are unable to hire any more Task Force workers; however, if you can be self-supporting, you may consider your application accepted. You have stated that you can be self-supporting for "one two-month period"--this is fine. You might look into the possibility of Bronx CORE's raising subsistence ($10-$25 a week) for you after that, or some other group you might know.

Let us here from you, regarding definite plans.

Sincerely,

Debbie Bernstein

S.O.
Memo

MEMO TO: CORE Southern Staff

FROM: Judi Nusbaum, CORE Southern Office, Research/Federal Programs

DATE: February 18, 1965

RE: Tour of Projects

I plan to leave soon on a 5-week tour of all Southern Projects to improve communication between the staff in the field and the Federal Programs and Research office. During these visits I hope to learn what is being done on each project, and what some of the individual problems and needs are so that I can better determine what kind of information will be most useful to you.

Below is my travel schedule. Between now and the time I arrive at your project, I hope that you will be thinking about some of the things we should discuss, particularly concerning material that I have already sent to you. I receive little or no response from the field as to the use this material is being put to, and I need to know if an how it is being used, and any questions you may have about putting it to use.

I will call each project before leaving the previous project, to let you know what time I will arrive. It will be very helpful if accomodations can be arranged at each project free of charge.

Jackson, Mississippi - 2/28
Canton, Mississippi - 3/1 to 3/4 (also plan to visit Leake, Rankin & Scott Counties)
Meridian, Mississippi - 3/4 to 3/8 (also plan to visit Philadelphia & Quitman)
High Point, North Carolina - 3/8 to 3/12 (also hope to visit Greensboro, Durham, etc.)
Sumter, South Carolina - 3/12 to 3/15
Quincy, Florida - 3/15 to 3/19 (hope to visit other Fla. projects also)

(New Orleans - 3/20 to 3/23)

Baton Rouge, Louisiana - 3/23 to 3/28 (plan to visit St. Francisville, Clinton and Plaquemine also)
Alexandria, Louisiana - 3/28 to 3/30
Jonesboro, Louisiana - 3/30 to 4/1
Shreveport, Louisiana - 4/1 to 4/3
Monroe, Louisiana - 4/3 to 4/7

Judi Nusbaum

March 24,1965

Miss Debbie Bernstein
CORE Southern Regional Office
2209 Dryades Street
New Orleans, Louisiana

Dear Miss Bernstein,

I am pleased to hear that I have been accepted to work for Southern Regional CORE this spring. I have a number of questions and a problem with logistics. I need to know where I should go, what I should bring and to whom I should report. Could you also advise me as to how much it should cost for expenses and any arrangements I should make for bail before I go.

I am tentatively planning to leave San Francisco Monday evening, the 29th, on the New Orleans bus which arrives Thursday at 7:15 A.M. I will need to know Monday afternoon my exact destination as well as the answers to the above questions. Assuming my letter arrives on Friday, there will be time for your reply to reach me. . However, if my letter does not arrive on time or if it is important for me to come earlier I can be reached by telephone Friday or Sunday night. I will be at my home Friday night after 7:00 (Pacific Standard Time) so that you can call station to station and after 9:00 rates if you wish. My home phone and address is:

Area Code 509 tu4-5910
1421 N. Arbor Terrace
East Wenatchee, Washington

I will be at my residence at Stanford on Sunday after 6:00 P.M. (PST). That number and address is:

Area Code 415 DA3-8631
658 Lomita Ct
Stanford, California

If I have received no word from you by Monday afternoon I will call your office.

I received one of your application forms today from Ron Kaufman the chairman of the Mississippi Freedom Project- Stanford and he advised me to fill it out to help you keep your records straight. I will bring it with me when I come. I am looking forward to the spring's work.

Sincerely,

Gary Craven

Gary R. Craven

CORE Southern Regional Office
2209 Dryades Street
New Orleans, Louisiana
March 17, 1965

Mr. Gary B. Craven
658 Lomita Court
Stanford, California

Dear Gary:

Your application for work with CORE in Louisiana has been approved. We understand that you will be self-supporting, and will be ready to come down around March 30.

I am sending you a few pamphlets dealing with the various CORE projects in the state, which should give you some idea of what you will be faced with. Meanwhile, if you have any questions, we would be happy to answer them.

Let us know exactly when you will be arriving, so we can make arrangements with whichever project you will be assigned.

Sincerely,

Debbie Bernstein

CORE Southern Regional Office
2209 Dryades Street
New Orleans, Louisiana
March 26, 1965

Mr. Gary Craven
658 Lomita Court
Stanford, California

Dear Gary:

Hope this reaches you in time. We're glad to know you're definitely coming, and look forward to meeting you.

The Thursday morning arrival sounds good. You can come straight to my apartment, rather than to the office...bus rides are pretty brutal and you'll probably want to change clothes, sleep, whatever. There will be pleanty of time later that day to come to the office and talk about what you'll be doing and where you will be working. My address is 837 Burgundy Street, 2nd floor rear; just hop in a cab at the station.

Spring is here, but nights, especially in the rural areas, are still cool. So bring work clothes, light ones, but make sure you have — a warm jacket, trenchcoat, or sweater. Heavy boots are pretty helpful. Just talk to Ron or someone who has been involved in a project, to find out what to bring. If you have a camera that isn't too precious, that could be useful.

If possible, stash $500 away somewhere, or line up people who could come up with it, in case you need it for bond. Also bring a medical certificate (note scratched by doctor will suffice) of your physi-cal well-being; you probably noted this on your copy of our applica-tion form.

See you Thursday.

Sincerely,

Debbie Bernstein

Haley

[ca. 1965, April 2]

MEMO

TO: LOUISIANA STAFF

FROM: IKE REYNOLDS

RE: STAFF MEETING

We'll have a staff meeting in Jonesboro on Saturday, April 2nd. The meeting will began at noon.

Everyone should be prepared to discuss the needs for the area that they are working, such as number of people, type of people, program and type of trainning people will need to work in Louisiana

Because we don't have a worker in Ferriday, I am asking Dave Whatley to attend the meeting so we can determine the needs in Ferriday for a summer program.

File GARY CRAVEN

14 April 1965
P.O. Box 5368
Stanford, Calif.

Miss Debbie Bernstein
CORE Southern Regional Office
2209 Dryades Street
New Orleans, Louisianna

Dear Miss Bernstein:

I must first apologize for not sending a statement about Gary Craven, an applicant for CORE's Task force in the South, much sooner. I hope this hasn't inconvenienced you — or him — and that the information is still needed by your office.

Please forgive the delay.

Sincerely,

Diane Christensen

1. I have known the applicant for two years and met him through international relations work on Africa, because I am in charge of the Africa Desk in our student-run Institute of International Relations. I have also worked with him subsequently on a civil rights conference at Stanford.

2. & 3. Gary Craven was almost single-handedly responsible for setting up in 1963 a one-year student exchange between Makerere College in Uganda and Stanford, after the program had lapsed for a couple of years. He had previously been at Makerere as a Stanford exchange scholar in 1962-63, although no Ugandan came to Stanford on the program.

His experiences at Makerere and at a work camp in Uganda during vacations and travelling with African friends necessarily involved some element of strain, inconvenience, discomfort and teamwork, as living in Africa does, especially for a person from the comparative luxury of the US. Gary went to Africa with little previous experience in

african affairs and had a very good time, came home enthusiastic, and has received only praise from administrators & faculty at Makerere.

When he came home, he was concerned and enthusiastic enough about the value & possibilities of the Makerere exchange to revive it — he was willing to take the responsibility of writing innumerable letters, raising funds and screening applicants. Even though he had no previous experience in student govt, he was willing to work this way and later on (1964-65) accept the responsibility of being a member of a small student committee which selects foreign scholars to come to Stanford on student-supported scholarships and sets up exchanges with U. of Berlin, Keio University in Tokyo, and the American University in Beirut as well as Makerere.

Through two years of being responsible for student activities on campus relating to africa I have never met a better worker or more enthusiastic person than Gary.

4. Gary has always been willing to go to other people for advise on projects. He is also incredibly open and easy to talk to, and never has seemed impatient or in a hurry. I think a lot of things are more important to him — for example, listening to + concern for others — than complete absorbtion in studies or politics.

5. His openness, friendliness, concern and also his willingness to complete a project. Although a capable leader, he seems to work really well with several other people without overasserting what needs to be done. He is someone you instantly like very much and could depend upon. Many african students are his close friends.

6. I would have difficulty listing "weaker points" since I have never worked in the south and know little about what you are specifically looking for. Gary isn't the sort of person who could brilliantly debate a point in public (ie as on an AFSC peace caravan) but I think he'd be an inspiring person — and someone who would make you

more relaxed & friendly in a group — (5 if he were working in a freedom school or even on voter registration.

7. I think I have pretty well covered what I can say, (except to reiterate that I think Gary Craven is an exceptional person to work with and I hope he is selected for your project this summer.

Diane Christensen

Anita Levine
Campus CORE
6536 Telegraph Avenue
Oakland, California
May 5, 1965

Dear Meg, Benson, and Ronnie, Bill,

Thanks for those new statements and the "reprint". Since we've got a Campus CORElator coming out next week we've been eating all information up to contain it in that magazine. Karl Hufbauer wrote a superb article on Crown and its relation to Bogalusa. Becky and I wrote one on the movement and our experiences there. I will definately send one to you when they come out.

If you haven't called me by the time you get this letter, you are probably sitting on pins and needles wondering if, when, who, and how we're sending down the people you requested. Well Mike is ready for sure and there is another, white boy, Jack Waldron, who is just waiting to know for sure. The hang up is this. At a meeting last Sunday, which Lou Smith, attended, I was discussing this with Mike and Lou became quite alarmed; he called Richard Haley to see if this had been cleared through him. Haley said to hold up on recruiting the two to six people,and sending them until he could check it through with you, etc. We are suppose to hear from him today. Since Louisiana needs the organizers it seems ludicrous to go through all this red tape, at the risk of not getting anyone. But since Mike wasn't planning to leave until this Friday, anyway, thus far the red tape hasn't delayed our people from going down there.

In any event, before anyone leaves we will call you.

We are launching a drive to recruit 100 volunteers for the Louisiana Summer Project. The enclosed leaflet is the only thing however that we have for distribution, so far. If you could send us a batch of the Louisiana-Summer, 1964, students report to their home towns pamphlet, we sure could use them. Given the late date we are doing all we can to get people. I might add that on this campus we are in competition with MFDP, who wants 300 for the summer, SCOPE, SCLC's summer project, VISTA, and SCAL, agricultural California Summer Project.

As for Crown, Wil Ussery is still working with the Committee for Concern. Their direct action committee, headed by Rev. Genung, composed of members from each CORE chapter, is meeting Tue, May 11th to plan a program of direct action, including picketing at the docks to stop the paper which the city newspapers use. Then on Thur. May 13th the whole Committee will meet, and if they don't take action then the CORE chapters will initiate it, hopefully!

Please keep us informed, both on Bogalusa and as plans develope further for the Summer Project.

Hopefully I'll see you in June,

Anita

CORE SOUTHERN OFFICE
2209 Dryades Street
New Orleans, La. 70113

May 24, 1965

Mr. Robert Brookins Gore
Executive Director
Committee on Civil Rights in Metropolitan New York, Inc.
225 West 57th Street
New York, New York 10019

Dear Bob:

Miss Judi Nusbaum has referred to me your letter of May 20 asking for rebuttal of certain statements in Paul Good's NATION article on Bogalusa. They are all untrue and we will be happy to refute them.

1. Crown-Zellerbach is a member of the President's committee for equal employment opportunities, as they must be to continue to hold their government contracts. Whatever their policy elsewhere, their $100 million plat in Bogalusa, Louisiana absolutely does not have an "equal opportunity hiring policy" or anything that could ever be mistaken for one. The plant employes men of both races but despite their hundreds of female employees not one of them is Negro. Among the males, the job categories are strictly segregated, some for Negroes and some for whites. The washrooms, pay windows, and time card areas are segregated. The lunchroom was segregated, then integrated (it is run by a concessionaire, not C-Z, but a C-Z guard ordered Ngroes out of it when they attempted to eat there. The lunch room has subsequently closed because Negroes still could not eat there and whites refused to eat there once it had been technically desegregated. In addition there are segregated locals for whites and Negroes of the United Pulp and Sulfite Workers and the United Paper Makers and Paper Workers. Negroes can advance into "white jobs" only temporarily and then by means of the "extra board" which means they must give up their present classification, thereby losing all their accumulated seniority, and waiting for a temporary opening.

2. Lou Major may have made the statement but it is just not true, see the above.

3. Negroes and whites do work side by side at many jobs in the plant, but their classifications and pay scales are separate. In fact, it is not uncommon for a Negro, with considerable seniority, to train a brand new white for a "white" job which the Negro could never hold himself but which he is totally capable of doing.

It may also interest you to know that 60% of all employed persons in Bogalusa work for Crown and that 70% of the city's total payroll

comes from Crown's paywindows. Two of the four city commissioners (mayor-commission city govt) are Crown employees. Also, much of Washingtown Parish is timber growing area, and with Crown by far the largest consumer its influence is great in that way also. Bogalusa is known as the "Magic City" because it made itself into something with the Crown plant, unlike dozens of other ~~xxxxx~~ lumbering towns which have dropped into oblivion. Governor McKeither's chief interest is bringing industry into Louisiana and Bogalusa is known to be one of his favorite cities in this regard.

Most of this information I got myself from Bill Yates and material he worte; I am surprised that you could not find it in the national office.

I hope your are enjoying your new job and domestic arrangement.

Sincerely,

Edward Hollander
Field Secretary

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Jean Kawesch
Marie Richardson
Housing Secretaries

**Executive Committee*

Founded in 1949

May 20, 1965

Miss Judith Nussbaum
CORE Southern Office
2209 Dryades Street
New Orleans, Louisiana

Dear Judi:

Can you rebut the following for me? This information comes from an article, "Klantown, USA" by Paul Good in the February 1, 1965 issue of THE NATION.

* Crown-Zellerbach is referred to as having an "equal opportunity hiring policy."

* Lou Major, publisher of the Bogalusa News is quoted as saying: "Jobs at the mill are open on a non-segregated basis".

* Good states that "Negroes and whites do work side by side in many jobs at Crown-Zellerbach."

I couldn't find any of the materials at the National Office which were prepared by Bill Yeates, so I have no choice but to call on you. If the article is printed, I'll be sure to give the Research Department credit!

Sincerely,

Robert Brookins Gore
Executive Director

RBG:ld

DR. LEONA BAUMGARTNER
MR. AND MRS. ROBERT W. BENJAMIN
ALGERNON D. BLACK
DR. AND MRS. LE ROY BOWMAN
HERBERT L. CARLEBACH
DEAN CHAMBERLAIN
MRS. LOUIS G. COWAN
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MRS. RICHARD O. LOENGARD
MRS. MADELEINE M. LOW
MRS. ISIDOR LUBIN
DR. CECIL W. MARQUEZ
DR. ALFRED J. MARROW
JESSE S. MOORE
MRS. ELIZABETH PEACOCK
MRS. ALICE K. POLLITZER
TED POSTON
A. PHILIP RANDOLPH
MRS. E. FRANK RAYNER
IRA S. ROBBINS
MRS. SANFORD SAMUEL
VINCENT SARDI, JR.
ROSE SCHNEIDERMAN
EUSTACE SELIGMAN
DR. GEORGE N. SCHUSTER
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MRS. LOUIS TISHMAN
CHAUNCEY L. WADDELL
JUDGE J. WATIES WARING
ROBERT C. WEINBERG
ROY WILKINS
THOMAS G. YOUNG
WHITNEY M. YOUNG, JR.

ADVISORY COUNCIL

American Association of University Women, New York City Branch
American Jewish Committee, New York Chapter
American Jewish Congress
American Legion, Willard Straight Post No. 842
American Veterans Committee, New York Region
Americans for Democratic Action, New York Chapter
Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, New York Region
Association for the Study of Negro Life and History
Community Church, Social Action Committee
Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, New York City Alumnae Chapter
Ethical Culture Society, Council for Human Rights
Jewish Labor Committee
National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, New York Chapter
National Conference of Christians and Jews
National Council of Negro Women, New York Metropolitan Council
Negro Labor Committee
New York City Civil Liberties Union (ACLU)
New York Committee of Racial Equality (CORE)
Urban League of Greater New York

CONTRIBUTING ORGANIZATIONS: Friends of Freedom; Gentry, Inc.; International Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters; Joint Board, Textile Workers Union of America; Local 32B, Building Service Employees International Union; Local 1707, Community and Social Agency Employees Union; Local 6, Hotel and Club Employees Union; Local 62, Undergarment and Negligee Workers Union; New Englanders, Inc.; New York Club, National Association of Negro Business and Professional Women's Clubs; Phi Delta Kappa Sorority, Beta Epsilon Chapter; Utility Club, Inc.; Washington Business Institute, Alumnae Association

Mr. B. A. Brown,
Staff Associate,
38 Park Row, New York, N.Y. 10038.

RE: GIFT- Charts - PRACTICAL AGRICULTURE.

Dear Mr Brown:

It was quite gratifying to receive your acceptance letter of 6/23, and inclosing the mimeographed list of the 12 centers in the South to where you instructed us to send 2 each to each of these centers, and an extra one to the New Orleans office. We hope to have all of these in the mail yet today under invoices #3814 - A&B to WX. and the extra one mounted under #3814-Y. as per. enclosed copies.

We are sending a copy of this letter to the New Orleans address with copy of Invoice and an extra circular for we do want to have those int rested in getting the most out of this instruction by studying it themselves.

Louisiana schools have been getting quite a number of our Chart series and especially during the last two years; but Mississippi has not done so well. In fact, our sales in Miss. have not been so strong. Practically all of the states have shown a greater interest in providing Chart Series for both the Negro and White schools during the past three years for we have sent our circulars to all.

The enclosed leaflet states briefly why we are closing out our business which I dearly love, but which my 84 years has started to take its toll and so I have been anxious not to miss any who should be privileged to use them so I have been giving them to non-tax supported schools, orphanages and missionary schools.

Just remember, if you can use any more Series thru new Centers and we still have the goods, we will be glad to provide them.

May the Lord bless your cause and that right will prevail,

James O. Cox,
James O. Cox, President.
National School Service Co.,
Valparaiso, Indiana.

Hope you will urge the leaders to study the Series.

s O. Cox,
Madison Street,
araiso, Indiana.
46383.

YOUR ORDER NO. GIFTS to CORS.

NATIONAL SCHOOL SERVICE COMPANY

General Offices:
Valparaiso, Indiana, U. S. A.

REFER TO THIS ORDER BY NUMBER 3814 - A&B to WX and Y a single to New Orleans office

Shipped to
List submitted 1 letter dated 6/23,'65 from B.A.Brown, Staff Assoc. Cors N.Y. (25 i all) today prepaid.

Date June 29, 1965.

Sold to GIFTS.

Shipped Via
Parcel Post X. Truck Exp.

2 unmo ed plus a Manual to each of the 12 Centers. 1 mounted to

QUANTITY	ARTICLES	CHARTS	POSTAGE	MISCEL.	TOTAL
24 Sets	-Chart Series - PRACTICAL AGRICULTURE - unmounted, but with Teacher's Manuals with each set & delivered. (These sell no at spl price of $23.75 each set) -				$570.00
1 Set	Mounted to New Orleans office (Spl price $34.75) -				34.75
This is our gift to your deserving people. If you need more and we have goods on hand we will be glad to help out. J.O.C.					$604.75

This INVOICE serves also as STATEMENT. Thank you.

3394 Bishop
Cincinnati 20 Ohio
July 13, 1965

Ronnie Moore
c/o CORE Southern Regional Offices
2209 Dryades St.
New Orleans, Louisiana

Dear Ronnie;

Can you use my services in Bogalusa or elsewhere in the state? You know I won't let you down.

Yours For Freedom,
Albert Montgomery

P.S. I'm prepared to furnish my own expenses.

1501½ East Boulevard
Louise Street Station
Baton Rouge, Louisiana
July 21, 1965

Mr. Albert Montgomery
3394 Bishop
Cincinnati 20, Ohio

Dear Al:

A few weeks ago James Farmer issued a call for "bodies" in Bogalusa to join the local people in demonstrations. You may, of course, travel to Bogalusa in answer to that appeal.

We feel that we cannot at this time accept any more workers on the Louisiana Project. We have a large concentration of staff in Bogalusa, and in other areas of the state we are in need of Negro workers.

That's the present situation; thank you for your continuing interest.

Best regards,

Ronnie M. Moore
Field Secretary

RMM/sb

THE FOLLOWING PAGES ARE THE BEST

AVAILABLE.

September 27, 1963

The Rev. Douglas A. Moore
1414 Gerard Street, N.E.
Washington, D.C.

Dear Reverend Moore:

I very much enjoyed meeting you and our long conversation when I was in Washington. The following is my rough outline for Washington office and the way I would see it working.

First of all, by way of background, let me say that CORE has been traditionally organized into four departments: the administration, which is responsible for housekeeping services; a legal department; a community relations department, which is fund raising and public relations; and an organization department, responsible for all field operations. This summer, in connection with the National Action Council, have conducted a spate of community relations into a food raising and a public relations network. We are currently opening a public relations director. In addition, they have instituted the establishment of a program department and a research department as soon time as funds will permit. Since the primary thrust of our work public accommodations program is into the area of community organization and political action, there will be considerable legal work in connection with this program department in Washington. In recognition of the need to direct the program in such a way as to have maximum impact on the legislative and other governmental processes largely emanating from Washington.

I would thus envisage the establishment of a Washington office which would house our program department, private bill department and, I believe would be important adjunct, the legal department. The legal department would have charge of the offices and all of the personnel working in the office would be responsible to him. He would be responsible to and report directly to National headquarters. He would have responsibility for supervising the staff and the budget of the office. The office would have a chairman of directors to serve as chief lobbyist in Washington. It would serve to offset the work of a Washington office maintain liaison with the many other people to be active in Washington.

government with which the civil rights movement has need to deal. It would also be used as a lobby for pressuring the executive branchfor the responsible discharge of its many important functions which affect Negroes - the enforcement of the civil rights act, deployment and function of federal voting registrars, War on Poverty programs and Department of Agriculture programs, etc. It

The program director would become one of the principal spokesmen for the national organization, since he would be the chief spokesman in the Washington area for National CORE. He would testify on major pieces of legislation before Congress and in general direct our political activity from there.

I would see the office as being staffed by three additional people, at least initially. One would be a research assistant to do the digging on legislative matters and to burrow into the bureaucracy of federal programs, regulations, etc. A second, would be a community organization specialist that I would regard also as being the primary watchman of the poverty program, who would seek to understand the poverty administration, get to know the people in it, and among other things, attempt to find ways in which anti-poverty funds could be channeled into community organizational activities in which CORE groups around the country are involved. The third person would be clerical.

It also seems to me to be important that some substantial community organization be undertaken in the Washington area. It is not essential that this be done out of the same office, but I believe it is essential that it be done. For example, there are plenty of Negroes in Washington to have had the March on Washington without bringing anyone from the outside, if they could have been mobilized. The deficiency in mobilization, of course, was most apparentaround the MFDP Challenge issue where there were very few Washingtonians participating. One possibility is that the community organization specialist might be able to develop a laboratory project right there in Washington with some volunteer help and, finances permitting, I would hope that we could develop a community organization project right there in the Washington, D.C. area.

An annual budget for the office as I have described it would run about as indicated on the attached sheet. There is some possibility that we could secure foundation funds to support the research person and office overhead on him and possibly even part of the community organization specialist. Judi Nusbaum, who has been doing research and federal programs work in the Southern Office, is interested in moving her operation to Washington. She is an extremely competent person. She is in New York now working on a proposal for submission to foundations for support of that phase of the Washington operation. I have in mind Mike Lesser for the community organization specialist. He has considerable experience and has been onour staff for several years working in the Mid-West and the South. Helped draft a Project Headstart program for a community in northern Louisiana and he knows something about dealing with the Poverty people in Washington.

I would like to get started on fund raising for this immediately. I believe that you and I and Farmer could find considerable immediate money to start this operation from trade unions and churches. Trade unions particularly, if we strike fast, based

on the fact that we want to begin work immediately onlobbying for a strong minimum wage legislation, which is coming to the floor of Congress on October 11th.

I would like to have your comments and reaction to these ideas. I am not now offering you a definite position, since a matter of this importance would have to be discussed with the National Action Council before execution. It would also, of course, depend on our getting a reading of the fund raising prognosis for such a purpose.

Sincerely yours,

George A. Wiley
Associate National Director

GAW:nm
Enclosure

CORE - SOUTHERN

Regional File

STAFF - Recruitment

1965, May

[1965, May]

file

CORE LOUISIANA SUMMER PROJECT

Although many organizations are now recruiting summer civil rights volunteers, most of these volunteers will either be lobbying in Washington, or will be assigned to do specific tasks in existing community organizations. Of the few programs this summer working in areas of the deep south where there has still been little or no organization, one of the largest will be the CORE Louisiana Project. Of all the states in the deep south, Louisiana has so far been the most succesful in resisting the advance of the civil rights movement. This summer CORE hopes to begin opening up the state, and to establish strong indigenous community organizations throughout Louisiana.

LOUISIANA

Many people believe that Louisiana will be the hottest front of the movement this summer. Most of the past attempts at civil rights organization in the state have been successfully repressed. The Ku Klux Klan has been growing rapidly. Violence, and the threat of violence has become so great that a Negro self-defense organization, The Deacons for Defense and Justice, has been established in many parts of the state. In two of the communities where CORE will be working, Jonesboro and Bogalusa, The Deacons and the Klan have already come into open conflict. Although in some places, The Deacons have been able to effectively protect civil rights workers, there is no guarantee that they can continue to do so, and in most of the communities where CORE will be working, The Deacons have not been organized.

TWO COMMUNITIES IN WHICH CORE WILL BE WORKING

Bogalusa

Bogalusa is a small industrial town, 90 miles east of the Mississippi River, and 30 miles south of McComb, Mississippi. The town's economy is based upon five branch plants of the Crown Zellerbach firm. Bogalusa is totally segregated; there are even separate unions for Zellerbach employees, and all of the Negro employees are frozen into the lowest paying job categories. Although about 500 white women are employed by Crown, there is not a single Negro woman employed. Practically the only employment available for Negro women in Bogalusa is domestic work.

There are three civil rights groups working together in Bogalusa: The Voter's League, The Deacons, and CORE. These groups have come into effective existance within the past few months, and they have already had a great impact. Although there is still not a single Negro church in Bogalusa which will permit civil rights meetings, voter clinics are being held in the Negro Union Hall. There has also been an effective boycott campaign directed at all the downtown merchants, and there have been several civil rights marches through town. So far, the existance of The Deacons has prevented any large scale outbreaks of violence, but tension is high. The Klan has been organizing and Bogalusa already has the highest per capita Klan membership of any town in the nation. On May 7th Klan members from across Louisiana, responding to a call from the Bogalusa Klan, assembled in Bogalusa and marched 12,000 strong.

Plaquemine Parish

Plaquemine Parish is a small rural county in southeastern Louisiana almost totally owned and totally controlled by Leander Perez. The man's hatred of Negroes boarders on insanity, and he is generally considered the state's leading segregationist (He led the Klan march in Bogalusa). It has been reported that much of his property was seized from its original Negro owners after the titles to the land were burned. There is but a single road leading into the Parish, and at times, all cars entering the Parish are stopped and checked. The Parish has three school systems: one for whites, one for blacks, and one for Creoles. When the Catholic Chruch decided to integrate their school, the school building was burned down, and they were unable to secure a permit to rebuild it. Perez has build a concentration camp for civil rights workers on a swampy, mosquito-ridden, snake infested island.

THE PROGRAM

During the summer, CORE will be working in 20-25 Parishes in 4 of Louisiana's 8 Congressional Districts. Beginning June 12th, 125-140 summer volunteers will meet in the town of Plaquemine, Louisiana (the town is not in Plaquemine Parish). There they will receive a one week intensive training session which will include both practical field experience, and classes on project development and community organization. After the training session they will be divided into groups and sent into communities in which contacts have been made: some groups working with a resident CORE staff member, and some supervised by traveling staff members. They will not be setting up programs which have been decided upon in advance. Rather, drawing on what was learned during the training session and presenting the community with a wide range of alternative project suggestions, each group will work with the community allowing the community to shape its own individual project.

The primary goal of the summer is to develop strong community organizations and help develop militant indiginous community leadership. CORE workers should consider any community project decided upon less an end in itself, and more a vehicle for development of the community. It is hoped that by the end of the summer it will be possible to establish a statewide federation of community organizations which will be able to effectively lead the Louisiana freedom struggle.

VOLUNTEERS

Since recruitment for the Louisiana Summer Project began late this year, there are still many openings. All applicants must be at least 18 years of age, and anyone between 18 and 21 will require parental consent. Highest priority will be given to Negro males, lowest priority to white females. Volunteers are expected to be self-sufficient; they should have $10-$15 per week for living expenses, and either have $500 bail money available in case of arrest (this money needn't be brought down south) or be able to give $50 to a bondsman at the beginning of the summer, who would be willing to bail them out if necessary.

We will attempt to assist anyone who wishes to go south and does not have the finances, but funds will be limited. There is also a scholarship program which some volunteers may be able to take advantage

of. This program is open to graduate and undergraduate college students in humanities, social sciences, and education.

If you wish to go south, you must act quickly. In the East Bay, for information call Anita Levine 654-7643. For those on the Cal Campus, information and applications will be at the Campus CORE table. Others can get information and applications from the CORE Regional Office, 2085 Sutter Street, San Francisco, 567-3430. If you can not go south but would be willing to help raise money, for those going down, or would like to do support work for them, call Anita Levine, 654-7643.

PUBLISHED BY
BERKELEY CAMPUS CORE
P. O. Box 162
Berkeley, Calif.

[1965, may]

MEMO TO: All Southern Staff
FROM: David Dennis, Southern Program Director
RE: Recruitment for the Field Fellowship Program

Enclosed you will find applications from the Scholarship, Education and Defense Fund for their field fellowship program. This program is an effort on the part of SEDF to provide means by which college students can become involved in the Movement. It will aid students in their studies and at the same time give them experience in social work. It will introduce them in a constructive way to the social problems of their country and how they affect them now and in the future as prospective leaders of this country.

We are able to have 60 students in this program--50 in Louisiana, 5 in South Carolina and 5 in Northern Florida. SEDF has sent out applications both to field staff and colleges for recruiting students for this program: so far, about 10 have applied. I feel very strongly that the reason so few have responded to this project is that very few students know about it. Therefore, it is our responsibility to begin a major recruiting effort on the college campuses of our area, to get college students involved.

Enclosed you will find both an application from the SEDF and an explanation letter about qualifications for the grant, etc. These can be reproduced by whatever means you have available. To qualify for a grant, the student must also be accepted to a summer project, so please make sure they also fill out an application to the CORE summer project.

We have about one week left to recruit: the school year is almost over. I humbly plead to all staff members that you do all you can to begin a major recruitment of students from Negro college campuses. You should have the enclosed applications reproduced and distributed on all campuses in your area. Try to meet with the students themselves, to interest them in the project. All applications must be sent to me, in care of the CORE Southern Office, by May 30. Students will be notified immediately as to whether they have been accepted or not.

Field staff have long complained about the small number of Negro college students who participate in the Movement today. We have come to the conclusion that the reason the number is so small is that so few can afford to work as volunteers, and the Civil Rights Movement has not been able to finance them in the past. Today, we have the means to finance the students, and it is up to us to recruit them.

This is a new project· none of us has had much time to work on it. Therefore, I am not blaming you for not doing anything on this project in the past, for it is quite possible you did not know about it. But, as in all emergencies, we must unite our efforts and push together. And this, I must say, is an emergency.

In the name of Freedom.

[1965, May]

CORE Scholarship, Education and Defense Fund, Inc.
150 Nassau Street, Room 1312, New York, N.Y. 10038

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT FELLOWSHIPS

sponsored by CORE Scholarship, Education and Defense Fund, Inc.

Community Development Fellowships are awarded to college students who wish to undertake field work assignments in a summer community project sponsored by national civil rights organizations. The field work experience offered by a given project must relate to a student's area of study. They are designed for students who cannot finance their own participation. Students receiving fellowships will enhance their educational and professional careers and at the same time perform valuable community service.

ELIGIBILITY

To qualify for a Community Development Fellowship, a student must:

1. be admitted to an accredited college;
2. be accepted by a bona fide summer project sponsored by a national civil rights organization;
3. show evidence that the nature of the project relates to his college studies;
4. show evidence that he does not have adequate funds to pay his own expenses.

SELECTION

Students will be selected on the basis of an application form which must be filed with CORE SEDF by May 25, 1965. Preference will be given to students whose past experience in academic work, community activity and civil rights work indicates that he will profit from and make a contribution to the given project. Two references, one related to college work and one related to community activity, will be required of each applicant.

OBLIGATIONS

Students who receive Fellowships must agree to attend all training and evaluation sessions related to the project and to provide CORE SEDF with a report on experiences.

- - - - -

5/3/65

[1965, May]

MEMO

TO: SOUTHERN FIELD STAFF

FROM: DAVE DENNIS, PROGRAM DIRECTOR OF THE SOUTHERN REGIONAL OFFICE

RE: FIELD FELLOWSHIPS PROGRAM

I am enclosing a description of and application forms for the Community Development Fellowships sponsored by the CORE Scholarship, Education and Defense Fund, Inc.

50 of these students will be hired to work on the Louisiana Project, 5 will be hired to work in Northern Florida, and 5 will be hired to work in South Carolina. The students do not have to be from the area named in order to be hired. We now need staff to begin a major recruitment of college students from the southern college campuses.

You are asked to make copies of the enclosed application form, distribute these applications to students on campus, have all interested students fill out the application form, and forward it IMMEDIATELY to the CORE Southern Office. All of these forms should be in the Southern Office no later than May 25, 1965.

LOUISIANA SUMMER, 1965

" 'Good afternoon, Ma'am,' the interracial team says. 'We're from the Congress of Racial Equality and we'd like to know whether you'd be interested in registering to vote.'

If the answer is yes, there begins the long process of teaching application. In Louisiana, a Negro applicant may be failed for not dotting an 'i' or for circling something which should have been underlined..."

"Yesterday a man sat talking to us with a knife in his hand. As we were leaving he laughed and told us what had been in his mind when he'd seen us coming. White bill collectors down here hire Negroes to lead them to the houses they're looking for and to beat the debtors."

"Another question, seeking the party affiliation of the voter, required the word 'Democratic' to be written-in, Peggy stated, or else the registrar would consider the application void."

"Suddenly these men who apparently had been fox hunting were swarming around the car..."

From Louisiana-Summer, 1964

CORE needs about 100 volunteers from this area for Louisiana-Summer 1965. For ten weeks the students will work with local Negro groups in 20 selected parishes in Louisiana. Beside voter registration the work may involve the formation of farmers' leagues and co-ops, and the organization of independent campaigns for local elections. Work will vary according to the needs and tactical possibilities in each parish. But everywhere the goal will be to start, stimulate or strengthen local groups capable of leading a community fight for equality and a decent life.

The volunteers will meet in mid-June in Plaquemine, Louisiana, for one week of orientation. Then they will disperse to face very different problems. In some of the parishes CORE workers have been active for as long as five years. In some parishes local groups are well organized, in others, the campaign has hardly begun. In all cases the volunteers will be staying with local Negro families who have invited the CORE volunteers.

Interested people can get applications from Anita Levine, 654-7643

RALLY NOON, THUR. MAY 6
SPROUL HALL STEPS . . .

Hear CORE field secretary and Cal students back from Bogalusa, La.

labor donated

[1965]

College Students

and others

Needed

for CORE
Summer Program

An Invitation and a Challenge

College students, clergymen, workers and businessmen are needed for CORE summer programs in Louisiana, northern Florida, South Carolina and Mississippi. The main concentration will be in Louisiana. Work will be hard, living conditions will be spartan, opportunities for achievement will be great.

The main purpose of CORE summer programs will be to develop community leadership and strengthen community organization. CORE workers will not enter a community with preconceived plans. They will instead adapt themselves to the community's needs and wishes. They will seek to stimulate the expression of those needs, and organize the kind of groups that will be able to continue activity on a self-sufficient basis after the summer programs come to an end. Program areas include:

Voter Registration

Canvassing, instruction clinics, rallies, transportation to the registrar's office.

Community Organization

Creating community involvement and organization around need for covered sewers, street lights, playgrounds, postal service, libraries, free access to public services and facilities.

Farmers' Leagues

Organizing farmers to deal with their special problems such as elections for County ASCS committees, getting crop loans and farm home loans, setting up marketing cooperatives where these are possible.

Jobs

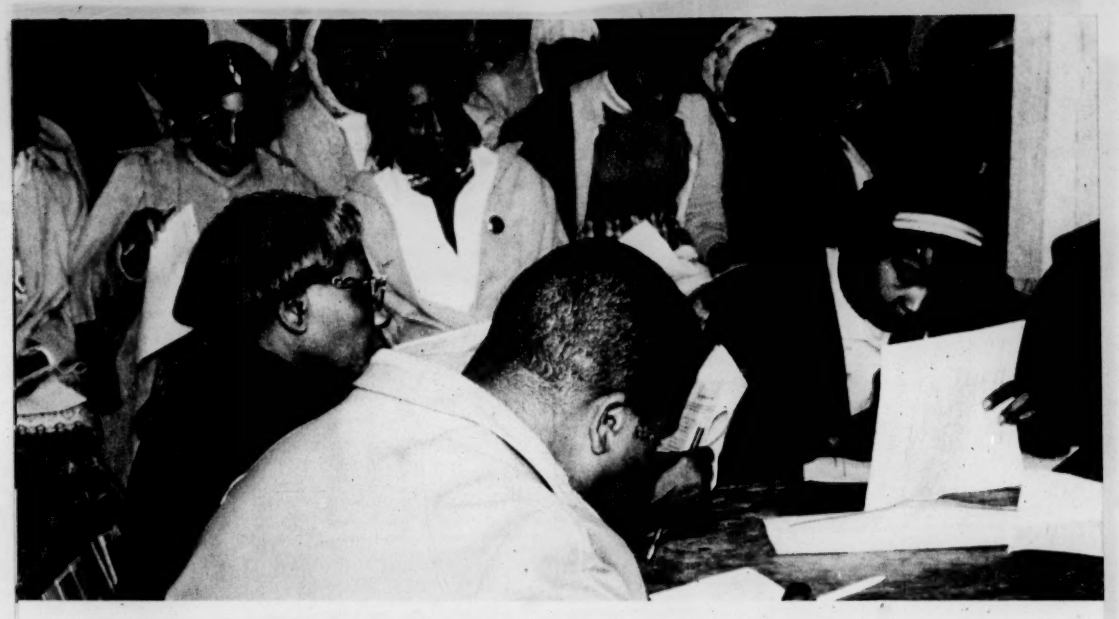
Working to open jobs at consumer-oriented companies and public agencies by encouraging negotiations, mobilizing community concern through public demonstrations and boycotts.

Freedom Schools, Community Centers

Literacy programs, classes in Negro history, government, current events, nursery programs, drama groups, art. Special need here for trained people.

Medical, Legal Assistance

Programs will have cooperation of Medical Committee for Human Rights, Lawyers Constitutional



Defense Committee, CORE Scholarship, Education and Defense Fund.

Summer programs will start with a one-week training session, which is scheduled to open on June 10th. Following this there will be eight weeks of field work ending with an evaluation on August 15th. Participants are expected to be self-sustaining. They will have to pay for their own transportation and room and board, and be prepared for possible bail expenses. The CORE Scholarship, Education and Defense Fund will make a number of Community Development Fellowships available to students in appropriate fields of study who have been accepted for a program. For applications and additional information, write to:

CORE Southern Office

2209 Dryades St., New Orleans, Louisiana

If you can't join the program, please support it.
Contributions are urgently needed.

[1965]

CORE VOLUNTEERS

NEEDED IN SOUTH JUNE 10 to AUG. 30

IN LOUISIANA • S.CAROLINA • NORTH FLORIDA

VOTER REGISTRATION

FREEDOM SCHOOLS

COMMUNITY CENTERS

COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION...

WORK ON EVERY PHASE OF DISCRIMINATION AGAINST NEGROES!

VOLUNTEERS MUST BE SELF-SUPPORTING

SOME FELLOWSHIPS AVAILABLE

For Information:
RECRUITMENT DEPT.
CORE Southern Regional Office
2209 Dryades Street
New Orleans, Louisiana
(504) 523-7625

CORE SUMMER PROJECTS, 1965

FIELD FELLOWSHIPS AVAILABLE FOR STUDENTS TO WORK IN LOUISIANA, SOUTH CAROLINA AND FLORIDA - paying room, board, spending money and expenses.

CORE Southern program for summer 1965 is designed to fit the needs of each community being worked, but at the same time to establish a coordinated, meaningful South-wide effort to achieve our goals. The intent of all work being done in the region is to reach more deeply and widely into the problems that face the Negro community and develop indigenous leadership to deal with those problems through basic, community organization. Our role is not to lead, or to "do for", but to share what knowledge and skills we have gained through our various experiences so that the people of a community, themselves, can see alternatives and use this knowledge and skill to accomplish those things which they feel are most important.

LOUISIANA: The 1965 summer project in Louisiana will enable the civil rights projects in the state to better meet the needs of the Negro community. Freedom schools and community center programs will be carried out, including the development of libraries, adult,education, literacy and medical programs. Freedom school and community center programs will vary as the needs and interests of the community vary. New projects, and a state-wide effort to register Negroes on a massive scale will be put into operation. There will be a campaign to build a wide-ranging network of voters leagues looking toward the formation of a party structure. We will initiate a food-and-clothing-distribution program, administered by committees of local people, to help alleviate economic reprisals on those Negroes who attempt to register or participate in civil rights activity. Work will also be done in the area of federal programs to establish farmers leagues and cooperatives to represent a strong political force as well as help the Negro farmers achieve economic independence. The project will involve approximately 25 parishes in 5 of the 8 congressional districts.

SOUTH CAROLINA: 1965 is an important year in many states across the South, but especially so in South Carolina: Strom Thurmond stands out as a racist challenge to all of us in and concerned with the civil rights movement. We hope to be able to create real opposition to Senator Thurmond and his machine during the 1966 election. To accomplish this, the number of Negro votes must be increased tremendously and Negro political organization must be greatly strengthened. This summer will see a massive project of voter registration and political education. The workers will conduct voting clinics, set up voter registration campaigns and develop community organization to carry on this program. They will also try to organize some Community Action Projects under the Anti-Poverty Bill; this would include organizing local people around projects that would qualify for aid under the Anti-Poverty program. Information centers should be established to inform people of their rights under the 1965 Civil Rights Act. In areas where it is possible, Freedom Libraries will be set up concentrating on Negro history.

NORTHERN FLORIDA: Work will be done primarily on voter registration, use of the Anti-poverty program, test of public facilities and accomodations, and a stepped-up program in employment. Concentration will be on the 9th congressional district, which has a Negro population of 37%. Success in voter registration this summer will enable the Negro community to swing most of the elections in the 9th district in 1966. A stepped-up desegregation of public facilities and accomodations program is also planned. All of the major places in northern Florida have already been tested, and it has been found that 4 out 5 are still discriminating against Negroes.

APPLY NOW TO : CORE SOUTHERN OFFICE
2209 DRYADES STREET
NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA

For further information call 342 8388 in Baton Rouge.

FREEDOM NOW !